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**JOHN LEWIS**  
Widening peace talks  
must start now

## SECTION TWO

**A FEMALE FIRST**  
Will this woman run  
the National Theatre?

## Civil Service cuts to bring down taxes

### £750m saving for Budget

**COLIN BROWN**  
Chief Political Correspondent

A swinging 5 per cent cut in the £1.3bn running costs of Government departments across Whitehall has been imposed by the Treasury to make room for Budget tax cuts.

The cuts, which could amount to about £750m, will mean substantial job losses for civil servants, but the effects will be felt across every department, from prisoners being locked up longer in jail to reductions in lighting and heating in Whitehall.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, was behind the drive to cut the running costs of Government, in a joint initiative with William Walgrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

"Five per cent across the board has been agreed. It is exactly what people expect in the public sector. Everyone in the private sector has been downsizing through technological changes and savings on headquarters. Whitehall will have to do the same," said one senior ministerial source.

Ministers are braced for an outcry when the impact of the cuts is disclosed after the Budget, but they are convinced that it will prove popular with Tory backbench MPs and supporters in the constituencies.

The order for cuts in running costs led to protests from some ministers, including Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State for Social Security, who said in a leaked letter to Mr Walgrave: "It fills me with despair. The impact on operations will be devastating."

It is understood that Mr Lilley was given special dispensation

to avoid the full impact of the cuts. He argued successfully in the EDX spending committee of the Cabinet, chaired by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, that it would be counterproductive. He is mounting a battle against social security fraud, which will require more enforcement officers.

The Inland Revenue also es-



Peter Lilley: Letter tells of his despair

caped the five per cent cut, to carry out its anti-fraud initiative. But the axe has fallen heavily on other departments, including the Home Office. David Evans, general secretary of the Prison Officers' Association, last night said his sources had warned it could lead to prisoners being locked longer in their cells and being denied education.

The Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, is planning deep cuts in NHS management.

He used the announcement of his five per cent cut in running costs at the Conservative Party conference to answer

criticism that the changes to the NHS had led to boom in jobs for health managers.

It could also lead to more private sector involvement in the running of Whitehall departments. The Treasury is looking for a private sector company to refurbish its Victorian offices in Whitehall and to lease part of it back to the Treasury in an attempt to cut its costs.

The cuts to be announced with the Budget on 28 November will go deepest into capital spending projects such as hospitals, roads, and housing. The private finance initiative is being used to fill some of the gap.

A drive towards more privately financed NHS hospitals will be heralded next week by Mr Dorrell. The Home Secretary, Michael Howard, will use private finance to build more prisons. If he goes ahead with the recommendation for a new maximum security super prison, he has decided it will have to be financed by the private sector.

Meanwhile, the Government will today unveil its last full legislative programme before the election, with a series of headline measures on crime, education, housing and immigration, which senior party managers are confident will put Labour on the defensive.

The Queen's Speech was being billed in advance by senior ministers as part of an "autumn offensive", linking the legislation with this month's Budget as the building blocks for the Tories long awaited political recovery.

A senior minister last night said several of the 15 Bills would help the Government to expose the gap between the "rhetoric and reality" of Labour policy.

Princess will discuss marriage split in Panorama interview



Candid princess: The Princess of Wales at Broadmoor on her husband's birthday yesterday. She will discuss their marriage breakdown on television

## Palace fury at Diana's TV revelation

## JOJO MOVES

The project had "obviously been undertaken at the Princess of Wales's own initiative" and the Palace had not been consulted. No preview facilities were to be given to the Palace or the Princess.

Panorama is refusing to give any further details about the hour-long interview before transmission. It is not known whether Princess Diana will comment on alleged relationships with Major James Hewitt, England rugby captain Will Carling, or art dealer Oliver Hoare, to whose home she was reported to have made



"nuisance calls".

News of the interview was yesterday given to Prince Charles, who is on a four-day visit to Germany. The programme comes 18 months after he appeared on ITV and admitted being unfaithful.

In a documentary about his life the Prince told interviewer Jonathan Dimbleby he had no "regrets" about the admission, answered questions about his relationship with Camilla Parker Bowles and said he believed he would still be crowned king.

The Princess's decision to go public has sparked speculation that the interview is an attempt to put her side of the story.

## Journalist cleared in computer security case

**STEVE BOGGAN**

A "whistleblower" who helped the *Independent* expose a serious security breach at British Telecom was cleared yesterday of illegally breaking into the company's main computer system.

In a decision that safeguards a journalist's right to receive secret computer information from sources, a stipendiary magistrate in Middlesbrough found that Nigel Mahomet, a former BT engineer, had no case to answer. A similar charge against John Arlidge, the *Independent's* Scotland Correspondent was dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service. Both had been charged with unauthorised ac-

cess under the 1990 Computer Misuse Act.

The action, which could have made it illegal for journalists to receive computer information from sources not authorised to access it, was being seen as a test case. Last night, BT said it was "disappointed" at the outcome and would be examining procedures "to see whether use of this Act can ever be justified... in future".

Mr Mahomet, 41, from Darlington, was dismissed last April after a BT investigation identified him as the mole who helped the newspaper prove that unauthorised BT employees and temporary workers had access to addresses and phone numbers for hundreds of secu-

rity, military and government installations including MI5 and MI6 offices, nuclear bunkers, missile sites - and even John Major's private line into 10 Downing Street.

The maximum penalty under Section One of the Act is six months imprisonment or a £5,000 fine.

Mr Mahomet, who served in the Royal Signals Regiment for 18 years, including four tours in Northern Ireland - one with the bomb disposal squad - had contacted the *Independent* last November after BT rejected the newspaper's claims that security had been breached.

Yesterday, Stipendiary Michael James was told by both sides that Mr Mahomet was au-

thorised to access the BT computer and had his own password and authorisation code. Arguments between the prosecution and defence centred on whether that entitled him to access the computer after work to show sensitive information to Mr Arlidge.

Geoffrey Robertson QC, for the defence, said he did not doubt that the company would have regarded Mr Mahomet's actions as "unauthorised" in terms of their relationship with him, but he remained authorised under the Act.

Mr James said his decision was based purely on the definition within the Act, and not on how the ordinary man in the street might view it.

## Ecstasy tablet not adulterated

LOUISE JURY

The Ecstasy tablet taken by Leah Betts, the student who has been in a coma since collapsing on her 18th birthday on Saturday, was not adulterated, doctors said yesterday.

Her extreme reaction to the tablet had prompted suggestions that she had been the victim of a contaminated batch. But tests carried out on her blood and urine samples showed no abnormal substances present apart from the expected chemical components of the drug.

The finding prompted renewed warnings of the danger of Ecstasy, which is reputedly taken by up to a million people a week.

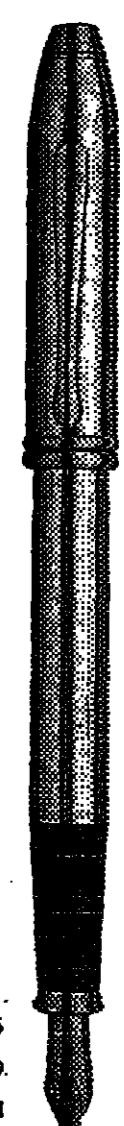
Dr Robert Ware, who heads the intensive care unit at King's College Hospital, London,

which has treated several victims, said the drug itself was inherently dangerous. "The dose per tablet isn't standardised and the people who make it haven't much idea what is in the tablet. In some people, the compound produces an enormous rise in the body temperature and can stop the heart."

As Leah remained critically ill on a ventilator in hospital in Chelmsford, Essex, Dr Alastair Short, consultant physician, said he could not comment on why her reaction had been so devastating.

He said there was not a great deal of experience with the drug, a hallucinogenic amphetamine which has become popular in clubs. At least 50 youngsters are thought to have died after taking it, mainly due to dehydration.

**CROSS TOWNSEND**  
**THE FASHION OF THE 30'S FASHIONED FOR THE 90'S**



## IN BRIEF

## US shuts down

Thousands of employees were sent home and the Statue of Liberty was closed as a budget deadlock led to a US government shutdown. Page 12

## Lang attacks CBI

Ian Lang, president of the Board of Trade, launched a furious attack on the CBI for dealing with Labour. Page 24

Abbey's takeover habit

Abbey National wants to take over the Alliance & Leicester and the Woolwich. Page 25

## Today's weather

Rain and drizzle for most of the country. Section Two, Page 21

## Trekkers get hotline to safety

REBECCA FOWLER

which 26 people died, including 13 Japanese tourists.

Two British students caught in one of Nepal's worst series of avalanche disasters were saved after finding an abandoned radio telephone in snows that have killed more than 40 people.

The students, Charles Wright and James Ryan, both 22, who found the radio telephone beside a dead Japanese tourist, telephoned their parents from Kathmandu to tell of their helicopter rescue from the avalanche near Mount Everest, after contacting the rescue base. They had been part of a trek in

5,500ft up in the mountains and had run out of food.

Mr Wright, who celebrated his 22nd birthday in Nepal was on his way to Australia following his graduation from university. Mr Ryan joined him for the seven-week trek in the mountains.

"He kept shouting 'I'm alive, I'm alive, I'm alive, I'm alive, and we just couldn't believe it," said Petronella Wright, Charles's mother.

Helicopters rescued another 477 people yesterday, including 177 foreigners, nine of them British. Most were found in the

Everest area, where the avalanches hit hardest. A government spokesman in Nepal said they were the worst avalanches they had known.

Among those who died was Mary Harkins from Leighbridge, Co Carlow, Ireland. She was in a party of eight trekkers who died in the foothills of the Annapurna mountains, 250 miles from Kathmandu. A further 17 people are believed to have died in avalanches in the Manang region where she died, including two Canadians and a German.

Photograph, page 2

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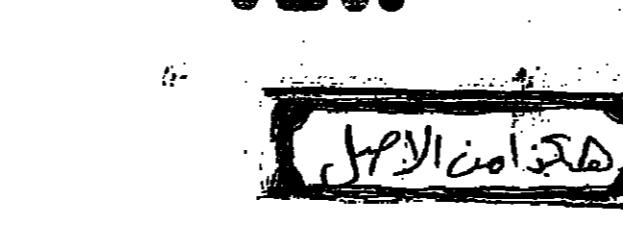
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2  
news

# Husband 'faked raid to hide murder'

The husband of a building society manageress beat, trussed and gagged himself after suffocating his wife to make it appear she had been killed during a robbery which had gone wrong, a jury heard today.

Gordon Wardell, 42, a car component executive, of Bonville Close, Meriden, Warwickshire, denies murdering his wife Carol, 39, at their home in September last year.

Oxford Crown Court was told that Mr Wardell killed the Woolwich manageress before

dumping her body and stealing cash from the branch where she worked to make it seem she had lost her life in a raid. Richard Wakeler QC said Mr Wardell concocted "an elaborate scheme to quite literally get away with murder".

The jury was told that Mrs Wardell, keyholder to the Nuneaton branch of the Woolwich, was asphyxiated at the couple's house before her husband launched his scheme to "deceive and divert suspicion from himself".

Her body was found in a lay-by two miles from Nuneaton by a motorist on 21 September. No attempt had been made to conceal the body. She was fully clothed, but one sandal was missing from her right foot.

Later that morning, the apparent raid on the building society was discovered. No signs of forced entry were found and the alarms did not sound but cash was missing from the safe and Mrs Wardell's personal security code had been used to open the vault at 5am that day.

The manageress's other sandal was found on the floor.

At 2pm the same day, armed police surrounded the couple's home and discovered Mr Wardell bound on the lounge floor. Mr Wakeler said: "It was a remarkable sight. He was on the floor lying on his back in the middle of the room dressed only in his underpants. His clothes and shoes were close by."

He was apparently gagged with a strip of cloth and was tied to a refuse sack holder with two ratchet ties around his wrists. He

was conscious and alert but apparently had some bruising on his stomach.

Mr Wardell told police and ambulance staff he had come home from a drink at a local pub just before 10pm on Sunday night to find men in his house.

He said they knocked him unconscious and he had not regained his senses until the Monday morning. Asked when he had last seen his wife, he said: "Last night - she went off with those men that were here."

Mr Wakeler said ambulance

staff later said Mr Wardell's blood pressure was not high and his heart rate was steady despite his reported ordeal.

He added: "The prosecution say that that was all a sham. It was part of a false scheme to induce the police to believe that Carol had been killed by a gang of robbers after they took her under force to the building society - leaving the man unconscious and trussed up."

"He was not attacked by any gang. He was not then rendered unconscious and tied up. He

tied and put the gag on himself. His bruises were self-inflicted.

"We say he did that after he killed his wife and left her body in the lay-by. After that he had been to the building society to fake the robbery and the scene at the house which confronted those police officers was all part of the sham."

During the two days following the discovery of his wife's body, Wardell had "spoken at great length about what he claimed had happened to him."

The trial continues today.

## IN BRIEF

### Bottomley bans TV porn channel

A pornographic satellite channel was yesterday endorsed by the Government.

Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, announced an order outlawing the supply of seven cards programme listings of advertising for the hard-core pornographic channel XTC, previously known as TV Erotica. "The Government will not allow such degrading material to be easily available in this country," she said.

The Swedish station, which cost £139 a month subscription, has been broadcasting since February. The Independent Television Commission called in March for a government ban. Leading article, page 20.

### Films censored

Britain's film censors condemned the "glamourisation" of violence by all-action movie heroes like Arnold Schwarzenegger. In its 1994-5 report, the British Board of Film Classification reveals that it made eight cuts to the video version of Schwarzenegger's *True Lies* to remove the most extreme acts of violence. A total of 24 films and videos were cut on grounds of violence. Five videos were rejected outright.

### Life for killer

A teenager who pleaded guilty to second degree murder in the slaying of a British tourist in north Florida two years ago was jailed for 27 years. Prosecutors say Aundra Atkins, 16, fired the shots that killed 34-year-old Gary Colley during a bungled robbery at a highway service area near Tallahassee in September 1993.

### School's out

Hackney Downs school is due to close at the end of the year, the Government announced. The decision, by Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, follows the final judgement on the troubled east London school which last month received the thumbs down from an education "hit squad". The school's 200 boys will be transferred to other schools.

### Leeson date set

The former Barings trader Nick Leeson is likely to be put on a flight to Singapore next week following final approval for his extradition, a German public prosecutor said. The 28-year-old, who faces trial on 11 charges of fraud and forgery following the £860m crash of Barings Bank, was arrested more than eight months ago.

**Yacht designer dies**  
Jack Holt, the yacht designer who revolutionised dinghy-building in Britain, died in Chichester, aged 83. More than a quarter of a million examples of his 39 boat designs have been built since he founded Jack Holt Ltd in 1945.

### Radon alert

West Devon council is surveying abandoned mine workings on Dartmoor for levels of the radioactive gas radon to assess the health risk to people exploring old mineral workings.

### House pot

An elderly couple admitted using their house for growing cannabis. A police raid on the home of Harold Rainsbury, a 59-year-old taxi driver, and his wife, Judith, 61, in Radcliffe, Greater Manchester, found eight cannabis plants. Bury magistrates adjourned the case.

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**BACK ISSUES**  
Back issues of the Independent are available from Heston Newspapers, telephone 0998 402455.



Charles Wright (left) and James Ryan pictured at Heathrow airport before setting off for Nepal, where they were caught in an avalanche which killed more than 40 people. The pair, both aged 22, were rescued after finding a radio in the snow

## How hacker exposed BT safety lapse

It was one of the most serious breaches of national security. An *Independent* investigation revealed that hundreds of British Telecom employees and unvetted temporary workers were able to gain access to telephone numbers and addresses of secret military, government and security installations.

We revealed that locations of nuclear bunkers, MI5 and MI6 buildings, the homes of military officials - even John Major's private telephone number at Downing Street - had been obtained by temporary BT worker.

The man who was recruited on a short contract to do clerical and computing work, was given a BT password, normally used by a permanent member of staff. This enabled him to gain access to the company's customer database, and extract classified information at will. He discovered that hundreds of other BT staff could regularly access sensitive information in BT's Customer Services System.

The system, one of the country's largest databases, holds records of addresses and telephone numbers of 20 million homes and offices. Ex-director numbers and sensitive military and security numbers that do not officially exist are on CSS. Each subscriber's listing contains details of the equipment installed - information which, in the case of government offices and secret installations, could be of value to terrorists and foreign powers.

Our investigations revealed that the CSS was wide open to abuse. Worse, reporters, supported by computer experts, discovered that some of BT's classified information had been extracted and placed on the Internet, the international computer network used by 35 million people. The world could view some of Britain's most closely-guarded secrets.

The revelations last November sparked furious rows in the House of Commons. After consulting senior BT officials, Mr Major assured MPs that the company was "assured there was no hacking of the system nor any evidence that confi-

dential information referred to in the [Independent] article has ever been on the Internet". The newspaper was later able to find sensitive telephone numbers and addresses at a location on the Internet.

Our inquiries established that temporary staff supplied to BT by the Manpower employment agency were regularly given the passwords of permanent employees to the CSS.

Embarrassed by the revelations, BT launched an internal inquiry into "an apparent breach of security". The Data Protection Registrar also began inquiries. But BT officials publicly sought to rubbish the *Independent*'s articles, insisting the CSS computer was "secure and completely robust".

Among the downloaded information seen by the *Independent* were the locations of radar command posts, Nato fuel depots, tactical air control centres and missile sites, private numbers for members of the Royal Family, secret Bank of England numbers and MI6's training centre. BT denied claims that the CSS had been "hacked", but it could not explain why temps had access across all the system.

Our revelations caused reverberations through Whitehall. MI5, the Security Service and its sister Secret Intelligence Service, MI6, were angered by what they saw as serious security lapses in BT's computer network.

Whitehall ordered BT to tighten security, in particular its use of temps and to build barriers into the system to protect information about the government and security services.

## Literary 'car boot' sale for Blyton works

**MARIANNE MACDONALD**  
Media Correspondent

but others, such as Timmy, the Famous Five's dog, could repay exploitation.

The rights are owned by a company called Darrell Waters, set up by Enid Blyton's husband. The majority of its shares are now owned by the author's descendants, and it is Darrell Waters' itself which is up for sale.

Enid Blyton wrote over 700 books before her death in 1968, including the *Noddy* series and *The Famous Five* and *The Secret Seven*. The sale anticipates a surge of interest during the centenary of her birth in 1997.

Interest in Blyton's work in Britain fell in the last decade amid the growing tide of political correctness. But last year she was the sixth most borrowed author from UK libraries.

## Media battlefield for royal broadsides

**Jojo Moyes** reports on the storm raised by fears of revelations in Princess of Wales's television film

Palace initially denied her involvement with the book, the material, drawn from conversations with her close friends, was widely understood to have been sanctioned by her.

Since their separation in December 1992, minor public relations battles were conducted through the tabloid press, with the Princess apparently "upstaging" many of Prince Charles' attempts to portray himself in a sympathetic light, simply by her dress.

The Princess was said to have been "humiliated" by the programme, which also elicited heavy criticism from those who believed the monarchy should remain "dignified" and not offer insights into their actions.

Yesterday her decision to speak out provoked similar criticism. The editor of *Buck's Peerage*, Harold Brooks-Baker, said the interview would be "another nail in the coffin of the monarchy, just when things were beginning to get more civilised, a little more grown-up".

"Anything that dents that public understanding means the future constitutional position of the Prince of Wales is put in danger," he said.

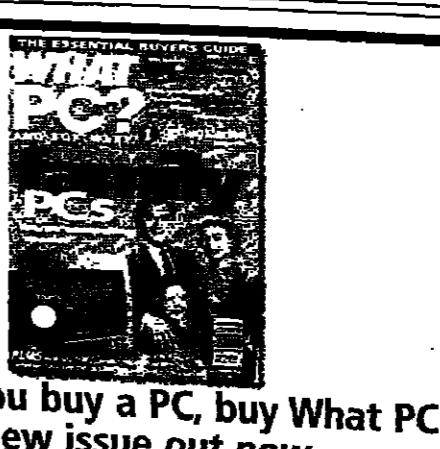
Mr Brooks-Baker said that whereas the Prince had talked about the Government and the



'Upstaged': Prince Charles

Commonwealth in his televised interview, the Princess had "chosen a soap opera approach" and seemed "determined to upset" the sensitive position her husband was in.

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SPLASH

3

## BRUSSELS' MISSING BILLIONS

news

From cash for rotten peaches in Greece to the desks that were never seen in Brussels, EU auditors uncover a litany of mismanagement and fraud

Farmers cashed	Aid to the impossible	School for scandal	£40,000 for one-hour speech	Invisible assets
Farmers in Greece, Spain, France and Italy were overpaid for fruit and vegetables which were sub-standard or could not be sold. Italy accounted for 95 per cent of the irregularities formally reported; most of which concerned processed tomatoes. Greek farmers were overpaid by £25m for peaches and nectarines sent to destruction because supervision at national level was so inadequate. Apple farmers in France were overpaid by £2.5m for produce which was later pulped.	The EU financed 26 studies on farming in Bulgaria at a cost of £10m. Only one produced concrete results. Most were not even translated into Bulgarian and so were inaccessible to the agricultural operators who might have had any use for them. Asked to finance a vehicle for the Bulgarian agricultural ministry the commission purchased 20 cars – all of which were found unused by the auditors. Throughout Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union consultants and experts were hired without tender.	Training of students – who are not considered part of the labour market and are therefore not eligible under the European Social Fund – was financed in Italy at a cost of more than £30m. In Greece almost £70m was spent on training for civil servants instead of the young job seekers and the unemployed youths that the scheme was intended for.	European industry commissioner Martin Bangemann received DM 40,000 (£20,000) for a one-hour speech at a seminar on regional development in the German region of Mecklenburg-West Pomerania. The seminar was co-financed by the European Commission.	In Belgium 40 per cent of a £1m small firms subsidy ended up with companies that were either bankrupt or facing liquidation. The scheme was supposed to create up to 600 jobs: only 24 materialised.



Borderline: The River Blackwater separates the Republic's Co Monaghan, on the left, and Co Tyrone in Ulster

Photograph: Stephen Davison

## Hard cash lost in borderline cases

KATHERINE BUTLER  
Brussels

Included in the litany of criticisms levied at EU spending decisions by the Court of Auditors is an attack on Europe's multi-million pound Interreg schemes to foster cross-border co-operation between neighbouring regions such as the border areas of the Republic and Northern Ireland.

Their criticisms show that what is at stake is often not fraud, but questionable decisions over how money should be spent. And those decisions are often far from black and white. Of the 270 projects included in the 1989-1994 Interreg programme for Ireland, the vast bulk were found to have no real cross-border content and did little to promote reconciliation. In fact, says the court, only 39 managed to qualify for joint financing by London and Dublin, which proves the point.

Interreg is the most important in financial terms of a dozen or so small-scale schemes

Bending the rules: How funds that were earmarked to promote cross-border harmony ended up in the wrong hands

conceived by Brussels to maximise the role of local groups and grass-roots organisations in the development of their own regions. Other EU initiatives encourage the development of run-down rural areas or former coal-mining districts in decline.

Together the initiatives have been allocated about £10bn for the coming five years, representing three times the amount they received in the five years up to 1994.

Interreg, which received about £600m over the 1989-1994 period, is specifically aimed at fostering co-operation between neighbouring regions of different member states to prepare them for the impact of the single European market.

But the court claims that many schemes artificially grouped projects running independently on either side of the border. Though they would have been eligible for cash, it

would have been under different schemes. "These projects could have been carried out within the framework of other existing community interventions," says the report.

"The commission and the member states will have to make a major effort to increase awareness and improve monitoring and assessment if the 1994-1999 period of this initiative is to have any real trans-frontier impact."

Brussels' officials who directly oversee the implementation of Interreg admitted yesterday that until 1994, the year covered by the audit, "things were a bit lax". But with good reason, they stressed.

Many border roads were sealed off for security reasons and efforts were hampered by the particular difficulties generated by the political situation in Northern Ireland.

In its official reply to the au-

ditors' report, the commission promises to tighten up and cites the appointment of three groups representing local authorities on both sides of the Irish border who are drawing up integrated area plans. It adds: "The cessation of violence in Northern Ireland is now giving an added impetus to genuine cross-border activity."

But other regions not affected by armed conflict or security issues are also cited by the court in its broadside against Interreg. European taxpayers funded the Cabeza del Buey highway in Spain in the interests of cross-border co-operation with Portugal – but the court points out that the bypass, which cost £1m, is some 200 kilometres from the border.

The court also noted that few member states bothered to set up joint monitoring committees or to agree on common assessment criteria. This made it vir-

## Spy in sky puts farmers on spot

ALAN MURDOCH  
Dublin

Sherlock Holmes favoured the magnifying glass. Today's European Union fraud detectives prefer something more powerful – satellites, which will soon be capable of identifying objects just one yard square from 500 miles up in the sky.

The satellite has come into its own with the creation of the EU set-aside scheme. It combats over-production by subsidising farmers who take arable land out of use. The satellite shows precisely what crops are being grown and whether farmers have told the truth in applications for EU aid.

Since the EU allows member states discretion to permit some crops (such as lentils and chickpeas) to be grown on set-aside land, the technology has to be sophisticated enough to distinguish between different uses.

According to Paul Kidney of the Dublin computer company ERA Maptech, which analyses satellite data on Irish farming for the EU, this is possible because each crop sends back a distinct digital image. "Light falls on crops and reflects back in particular light patterns. This means there is a 'reflection signature code' in the satellite signal returned to the tracking station."

The EU's *Satellite Pour l'Observation de la Terre* (SPOT) produces different "codes" for grass, barley, spring wheat and winter barley, among other commonly grown crops. These are displayed in different colours in maps sent to the EU and the national government.

Assembled in millions of band widths of reflected light, the pictures build up to form a minutely-detailed map. The

Detection: Satellite technology helps track down the fraudsters in the fields



All seeing: A view of the Dublin Bay area from the EU satellite, which maps different land uses

EU is complementing the satellite data with a massive computerised inventory in which every field has its own number.

The technology is sufficiently advanced to enable differentiation between old, dying trees in a copse in a set-aside area and a plantation of healthy new saplings.

EU specialists are expected to upgrade the degree of resolution possible next year, enhancing the smallest definable object from the present 10 yards square to one. (Cold War spy satellites only offered five yard resolution).

For investigation remains a closely guarded secret. EU sources say the percentage of fraudulent claims discovered since the scheme was set up in 1991 is under five per cent.

Constant scanning over weeks and months by a satellite orbiting the Earth every 90 minutes means passing obstructions such as heavy cloud banks cannot prevent surveillance. Periods of crop growth provide clear reflection codes, complementing other distinct images obtained during ploughing, sowing and harvest periods.

Even during limited visibility, satellite computers can be programmed to look at an angle under cloud banks. For example, they can observe Irish landscapes when passing over Liverpool. Analysis may be refined by using combinations of data from radar and optical satellites.

The development of digital satellite images requiring no film means sections can now be more easily "stitched" together for large-scale analysis. Satellites provide data on a visible "footprint" up to 60sq km.

In policing terms, set-aside crop surveillance gives EU inspectors fool-proof data before they ever cross the farm gate. "We check the area of the field planted to see if the size or acreage [stated by the farmer] are correct," says Mr Kidney.

The crop shown is then checked to see if what is visible corresponds with what the farmer has declared. A third precaution checks if anyone else has claimed for the same field, a task simplified by the new numbering system.

To discourage fraud, the location and scale of lands cho-

## Budget errors by Brussels fuel Euro-sceptics' fury

KATHERINE BUTLER  
Brussels and  
JOHN RENTOU  
Political Correspondent

Once a year, to the delight of Euro-sceptics and Brussels-bashers everywhere, the European Union's spending watchdog, the Court of Auditors, is unleashed from its Luxembourg kennel.

This year, the row it has sparked has been bigger than ever. In an unprecedented move the court has said there were so many serious and substantial errors in the transactions underlying the £56bn 1994 budget that it was impossible to guarantee the legality of the accounts.

The court's report has sparked a furious reaction. Labour and the Conservative Eurosceptics yesterday united to condemn fraud, raising the prospect of another Commons defeat for the Government, albeit on a largely symbolic issue. Labour accused the Government of complacency in the face of losses from "lax controls" put at £400m.

Seizing on the admission by Treasury Minister David Heathcoat-Amory that it did "not surprise me how serious the problems are", Andrew Smith, a Labour economic spokesman, demanded an early Commons debate on the issue. And a statement by five of the eight rebel Tory MPs recalled the is-

sue which forced their six-month suspension from the party in the Commons: "In November 1995 the above MPs refused to contribute more money to be wasted on the European Union, and argued that no more taxpayers' money should be handed over to the EU until the fraud and waste is controlled."

The statement, issued through the office of Sir Ted Taylor, MP for Southend East, said: "There is an urgent need for the Government to make it clear to the officials of the European Commission that the people of the UK will not stand by and allow fraud and corruption to drain the income of the nation."

The court was yesterday exercising for the first time new powers under the Maastricht treaty brought in to answer accusations that Europe pours millions in taxpayers' money down the drain each year. These powers call on the auditors to supply a "statement of assurance" on both the reliability and the legality of the annual accounts.

The auditors' inability to provide that global assurance on both counts could trigger an immediate crisis if, as a result, the parliament refused to vote through discharge of the 1994 budget. But it raises fundamental longer-term issues not just for Brussels but for all the member states who execute 80

per cent of Union spending. The President of the Court of Auditors, Andre Middleboeck, told MEPs yesterday that up to 4 per cent of the budget has not been properly accounted for. In other words, over £2bn of the total payments last year could have been handed out in error. A further 14 per cent of transactions could not be satisfactorily verified because accounting procedures were not adhered to. The suggestion is that errors in this category were less serious, but the overall conclusion is that only 80 per cent of the budget can be certified as beyond doubt – in other words, 20 per cent deserves closer scrutiny.

Examples of the type of sloppy financial control which underlie the conclusions make required reading for Euro-sceptics. But Britain does not escape the criticisms.

The auditors found the UK accounts for around 14 per cent of irregularities reported by member states in 1992 and 1993. Foot-dragging by the British Customs lost over £600,000 to European taxpayers.

Mr Heathcoat-Amory, the former European Affairs Minister, admitted financial controls were inadequate, even in Britain. "Britain's record, although not perfect, is good in this respect [fraud], but there is a wider issue of mismanagement, lack of discipline," he said.

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## news

**Dining out:** A new generation of affluent young consumers is increasingly turning its back on the kitchen sink

# Feeding an appetite for restaurants

GLENDA COOPER

The British are spending twice as much on eating out as they did 30 years ago and would like to escape the drudgery of the kitchen even more often.

Preliminary research findings announced by the Economic and Social Research Council's *Nation's Diet* conference yesterday revealed that families spent 20 per cent of their total food expenditure on eating out in 1990, compared with 10 per cent in 1960.

A survey of 1,000 households in Bristol, Preston and London in April this year found that 44 per cent of the population had dined out in the last 12 months, on average once every three weeks. More than one in five ate out at least once a week.

Those most likely to eat out were those on a high income, in a higher social class, highly educated, unmarried, or married without children. The young were most likely to turn their backs on home cooking, with 80 per cent of 16 to 19-year-olds and 75 per cent of 20 to 29-year-olds claiming they dined out once a month or more.

But Britain is still far from being a nation of gourmets, with sociability the primary reason for eating out. "Quality and variety were not major themes," said Lydia Martens, a research fellow in sociology at the University of Lancaster and co-author of the report. "Bars and bar meals were popular, particularly for Sunday lunch, where there were private play areas for children and they could sit for a number of hours."



Table manners: Increasing numbers of Britons are tucking in away from home

Of those who dined out regularly, 50 per cent had eaten in fast-food outlets, 50 per cent in cafés and 50 per cent in pub-style venues. Ethnic cuisine was less popular – only 30 per cent had been to Chinese and Indian restaurants. People tended to return to the same places, with 62 per cent saying they had been to the same venue before.

Most derived a great deal of pleasure, with 82 per cent saying they liked the overall occasion a lot when they last ate out. However, people did express reservations concerning value for money, hygiene, the incompatibility of drinking and driving and proximity to smoking customers.

It was not always by choice that people ate out, with only 45 per cent saying they had been involved in that decision and 20 per cent said that they had not

had any say in where they had eaten out.

Pub and restaurant owners said they had adapted to meet demand. Peter Love, general secretary of the National Association of Licensed House Managers, said: "It's come along way from a pie and a pint. Customers are more demanding and we've tried to bring in more sophisticated menus."

David Harrold, chief execu-

tive of the Restaurateurs' Association of Great Britain, added: "In the 1980s' boom time, restaurants acted as if they had a God-given right to trade and were doing the customer a favour," he said. "Now they have sharpened up their act ... and there's a lot of very good value three-course menus under £10."

He said customers in London could now choose food from 55

different countries: "Our menus are now moving ahead fast, ahead of France in particular, teaching them a lot of things."

Health groups and nutritionists welcomed the research which reveals a largely untapped area of the nation's diet.

More than 40 per cent of those questioned said that they tended to eat more when they ate out, and 40 per cent also said

they were less concerned about eating healthily when they did so.

Imogen Sharp, director of the National Heart Forum, said it was a "vital part" of assessing the changing types of food Britons ate: "Unless you take into account the kind of calories in pub and restaurant food we are not going to get an accurate picture of what is going on."

## Britons do eat better but the food revolution has a downside

So it is official: Britons are eating out more than ever before. Soon, if the Market Power report is to be believed, we will eat out as often as we cook our own dinners. To judge by the growth of national chains – Harvester, Pizza Hut, Pizza Express, McDonald's, Burger King – this is probably true.

A concurrent swelling is taking place upmarket: in London, the trend continues for the opening of massive dining rooms such as Belgo and Mezzo, which can take from 400 to 700 customers. Nor is it a Lon-

margarine-butter mixes, greasy curries, dry sausages, thawed prawns and salty gammon steaks put on restaurant tables of old.

Today the average British office worker might have an American Hot pizza for lunch, and a Thai fishcake for dinner. However, the downside of the restaurant revolution, in bald terms, is that this makes us a nation of consumers, not producers.

The French are urgently putting cooking classes into school curricula for a reason: as

mothers leave kitchens for offices, they are alarmed at the erosion of their world-famous food culture.

Here, the situation is far more grave: our food culture is marginal by comparison, and eroding more quickly. London pubs are just as likely to serve bruschetta as steak and kidney pie. While a woman of 60 will probably be able to make a pie crust in a matter of minutes, her child will spend the same time telling you it is too difficult to contemplate. The mother will have learnt about food on

farms, in greengrocers, butchers and dairies. The child will have learnt about it from holding menus, studying labels on over-packaged supermarket stock or watching food programmes. As food, food production, food handling becomes more of a mystery to us, we are easily spooked out of eating things as simple and classic as (an all too real example) the soft-boiled egg.

Restaurants are very like the alcohol they serve: good in moderation. As any planning officer for Westminster or Cam-

den Council can tell you, the proliferation of restaurants in London's Covent Garden during the Eighties helped destroy the same district as a viable residential neighbourhood. Rents skyrocketed and the noise levels, traffic and rubbish became intolerable.

Nor will the growth of the catering industry necessarily benefit British agriculture. Much of the haddock served in British restaurants comes from African waters, the strawberries from South America, the wines from Australia. As for the work-

## Tornado blunders attacked by MPs

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY  
Defence Correspondent

A sharp-eyed RAF technician was the only person to spot damage to 16 Tornado fighters, incurred during a modification programme which had been contracted out to a civilian firm, MPs reported yesterday.

The damage is expected to cost the taxpayer tens of millions of pounds to put right and has led to a sharp warning about contracting out such operations.

The cross-party House of Commons Defence Committee attacked the MoD for accepting the 16 Tornado F3 fighter planes back into service from Airwork Ltd in 1993, and paying for the work on eight of them, solely on the basis of the contractor's paperwork and without checking they were serviceable. The report also highlighted defective work on Hercules transport planes.

The modification work by Airwork staff at RAF St Athan started in September 1992, but it was suspended in May 1993 after RAF personnel discovered the planes had been damaged.

"Significant damage" had occurred in the centre sections of 16 out of 18 planes. In addition, surface damage to significant load bearing structures and procedures to prevent the further growth of cracks had not been properly performed.

The report, on market testing and contracting out, said: "The discovery by MoD that this was far from true appears to have been a fortunate accident – an RAF technician noticed some damage – rather than by any planned inspection."

"This deplorable incident should be a salutary and timely lesson about the risks inherent in contracting out such work," the report continued. "Contracts must be effectively monitored and supervised at all times".

The report said it was fortunate that the RAF had 148 of the planes and that the loss of 16 had not, therefore, significantly damaged its ability to defend UK airspace. In future, with a smaller air defence force, such a "deplorable incident" could have more serious effects.

Emily Green

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news

**Death of a tycoon:** Robert Maxwell's widow and daughter-in-law speak of the final days

# Kevin's tears over father's death

The Maxwell Trial



Kevin Maxwell broke down and wept when told his father's body had been found, his wife told the Old Bailey yesterday.

Pandora Maxwell said that in the months before Robert Maxwell's death, Kevin's relationship with his father had been strained and he had made plans to leave the business to be a free man.

But news that his father had gone missing from his yacht had left him very upset. "He came home late that evening... he said a body had been found, and he broke down and wept. It was the only time he did," she said.

Robert Maxwell's wife, Elizabeth Maxwell, told the court how she searched in vain to find a note left by her husband when she went on board his yacht the night of his death.

"At the time I really did think it was an accidental death, but I wondered also whether there was anything more sinister," she said. "In the middle of the night... I woke up and tried to find if there was any handwritten note from Bob that he might have left for me. I got the idea that perhaps I could find a clue of some kind."

"I looked throughout the cabin and I also looked through his papers, but I could find nothing. About Sam, totally exhausted, I went to bed."

Asked by his counsel, Alun Jones QC, whether his disposal of Maxwell assets had been dishonest in a way the ordinary public would understand, Kevin



Family affair: Pandora and Kevin Maxwell going into court, left, and Betty Maxwell, the tycoon's widow, right

Maxwell said it had not been.

"I did not consider there was a prospect of the group's collapse, and I remained confident of the surplus of assets over liabilities throughout the period we have been looking at," he said.

"I didn't believe that the risks we were taking were dishonest. I didn't believe that the group was going to collapse. I believed in the value of the assets and I believe my conduct would have been seen to have been honest."

"What was motivating me... was a desire to save the group, not to put assets at risk."

Kevin Maxwell's wife, Pandora Maxwell, who gave evidence watched by her father and sisters, said Robert Maxwell was a "daunting, charismatic, frightening person".

In the month leading up to Maxwell's death, on 5 November 1991, her husband would leave for work before she got up and would not get home until 9 or 10 at night, she said.

His father would call him at any time of the day or night.

"There appeared to be strain in the relationship. Kevin was working harder. That was obviously demands from his father," she said.

After the sale of Pergamon Press, the family business, in early 1991, Kevin's attitude to his father had changed. "He was maybe more critical or judgemental... relations were very strained. He would come home and say they'd had an argument

Sometimes he said it had been a good day, they had sat down and had a beer at the end of the day.

"I know Kevin wanted to leave the business. We could never really be specific about when, but it was his intention in 91 to leave in 92..."

"He wanted in a sense to be free, to be able to allow us all to lead a more normal life."

Mrs Maxwell said after his father's funeral Kevin was determined the business would

survive. "He was certainly optimistic that the group, although in crisis, was favourable," she said.

Dr Maxwell, 74, said her husband had groomed Kevin as the "heir apparent" but had not been able to let fall the reins of power.

"Although towards the end of his life Bob talked of retiring, it was obvious that he resented any power next to him, and in a peculiar way, although he was grooming his children to succeed him, he resented any initiative that they took," she said.

She said her relationship with her husband had been extremely strained since he told her in spring 1990 that he wanted a separation, but he found himself unable to carry out his decision and remained friendly and affectionate towards her.

At the age of 69 Maxwell would become very tired, she said. "He could even almost sleep standing and at the same time, within the next few minutes, be would fall into a complete conversation, an animated conversation. He was absolutely all there."

"He would go on the telephone and have a conversation with a head of state, or he would go into a conference with three people and be so totally in control."

Dr Maxwell, who said she made a living by lecturing on the Holocaust and also relied on the generosity of friends, said she was amazed and overawed by the funeral her husband was given in Israel, and proud of the high esteem in which he was held responsible for the lovely complexion of Northern women was "corrosive to pipes", Mr Davitt said. He revealed YW's "on going leakage control activities", which include "proactively" finding bursts and fixing them. But one crucial factor had stubbornly resisted even the most innovative management strategies. Only one third of the average amount of rain had fallen since April. It was, YW claimed, a meteorological phenomenon rated by experts at between 500-1 and 1,000-1.

The worst affected areas, including Dewsbury, Halifax and

## Leaks added to Yorkshire's drought woes

### JONATHAN FOSTER

Huddersfield, were down seven pints in the gallon. "There is no alternative to rationing," John Layfield, production director, said. Emergency measures would reduce demand by at least 25 per cent and a fleet of 600 tankers would be working round the clock to fetch emergency supplies from the North east.

Yours Water (YW), the privatised utility, is seeking government powers to cut supplies for 24 hours on alternate days, install standpipes, and reduce mains pressure in response to a seven-month drought.

The company yesterday presented its case to Stuart Nixon, a Whitehall inspector at the hearing in Dewsbury town hall. More than 200 objectors

strained at the leash at the sight of seven YW executives present at the hearing.

The evidence of Jeffery Davitt, leakage control strategy manager, did little to mollify YW's critics. The company collects only 4 per cent of rainfall, then promptly loses 26 per cent of this through leaks.

One reason for the leaks, according to Mr Davitt, was the peaty, soft water that ran through the company's pipes. The precious commodity long held responsible for the lovely

complexions of Northern women was "corrosive to pipes", Mr Davitt said. He revealed YW's "on going leakage control activities", which include "proactively" finding bursts and fixing them. But one crucial factor had stubbornly resisted even the most innovative management strategies. Only one third of the average amount of rain had fallen since April. It was, YW claimed, a meteorological phenomenon rated by experts at between 500-1 and 1,000-1.

The inquiry is expected to last until Friday, but Calderdale Council said it may ask the courts to interrupt the hearing if Mr Nixon does not allow cross-examination by objectors of YW executives.

Objectors queued for an hour to register with Mr Nixon the right to take on YW publicly. As the tea dance began in the hall below a voice from the back of the audience told of untapped sources of water. He knew of their whereabouts, but most of the objectors said they knew only of YW's mismanagement of the crisis. They included dyers and fish fryers, bakers and brewers, nursing homes and local councils. Most fear the effects of cuts on health and businesses. YW will pay no compensation.

Yorkshire Water Watch, an umbrella group which has claimed that YW subordinates service to profit, will tell the inquiry that stockpiling by customers during cuts will frustrate attempts to save stocks. Risks of disease would also be increased, Water Watch claimed.

The inquiry is expected to last until Friday, but Calderdale Council said it may ask the courts to interrupt the hearing if Mr Nixon does not allow cross-examination by objectors of YW executives.

## Part-time workers launch test cases on pension rights

### BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

Under an amendment to the Pension Schemes Act, last May, the limit on claims was only extended back two years to May 1993.

Employers at today's hearing at a Birmingham industrial tribunal will contend that benefits should not be backdated further, while the TUC will argue that the tribunal has the legal power to make its own judgement.

Citing a European Court ruling last September, lawyers will argue that the employees in local government, the health service, education and high street banks were the victims of sex discrimination by being excluded from pension schemes.

The lawyers are seeking to backdate benefits to 1976, when the European Court of Justice gave a key ruling in favour of part-timers' rights.

The TUC, which has coordinated the cases on behalf of its own affiliates and independent staff associations, calculates that the total compensation involved could amount to more than £95m. It believes that such a sum is affordable because the pension

fund assets involved stand at more than £250bn.

The TUC's backing for the cases forms part of its two-year campaign to win pro rata rights to pay and conditions for Britain's 5 million part-timers.

John Monks, the General Secretary of the TUC, said employers would have to wake up to the fact that part-time workers should be treated the same as full-timers.

According to the latest Labour Force Survey, there are 5.4m part-time workers in Britain, of whom 4.7m are women. The TUC estimates that only about 850,000 of them are in occupational pensions schemes, but that another 3 million are now eligible.

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Oct 1995 (20)

# Half all birds and mammals 'extinct within 300 years'

NICHOLAS SCHOON  
Environment Correspondent

Tens of thousands of species are already doomed to extinction in the next few years because of humanity's destruction of their habitats, warns a United Nations report published yesterday.

It says that 11 per cent of all known mammal species, 18 per cent birds and 5 per cent of fish are deemed to be threatened. Assuming that present trends of over-exploitation of wildlife and clearing of natural habitats continue, half of all the birds and mammals will be extinct within 300 years. It may be sooner, however, for the trends are accelerating.

The grim assessment is made in a 1,100-page report commissioned by the UN Environment Programme and published yesterday at the start of international wildlife protection negotiations in Jakarta, Indonesia.

It accepts that extinctions have always happened since life first appeared on Earth billions of years ago, but points out that today's rate is up to 10,000 times the natural average. The single most important cause is the clearing of forests and other natural habitats for timber and crop production.

While 38 birds and mammals were recorded as becoming extinct in the 210 years after 1600 (when records began), 112 are known to have disappeared in the last 85 years.

The Global Biodiversity Assessment, which more than 1,000 scientists were involved in compiling, says that at least 5,400 animal species and 4,000 plants are known to be threatened. Biodiversity refers to the variety of living creatures, from viruses to blue whales.

An international biodiversity treaty was signed at the Earth Summit in Brazil three years ago, and delegates from dozens of nations – including Britain – are meeting in Jakarta this week to negotiate on measures to implement its aims.

At the heart of the report lies a huge paradox – that only about one-eighth of the total number of species in the world are actually known to science. There are millions of insects and hundreds of mammals and birds that have not yet been discovered, described and named. The number catalogued is put at 1.75 million, but the new report's latest "guesstimate" for the total living on Earth is 13 million.

The great majority of species on the brink of extinction, or

already extinct, are therefore uncharted. But their loss could ultimately be a threat to humanity for several reasons, the report warns. Wild species are still needed to develop new drugs and new crop varieties. And certain species play a key role in preserving habitats and preventing soil erosion.

At the opening of the conference, Indonesian vice-president, Try Sutrisno, told delegates that poor countries needed more funding from wealthy nations if they were to honour the biodiversity treaty.

"There is a need to look for other financial resources," he said. "This is particularly true in view of the fact that developing countries have foreign debt problems which tend to get more serious and complicated."

Delegates said they had yet to agree a mechanism to fund proposed conservation work. Biodiversity projects are currently funded by the Global Environmental Facility, which is managed by the World Bank and granted to countries upon request.

But developing countries say that the funds, which stand at about \$2bn (£1.3bn) for 1994-97, are too small and that procedures for disbursement are too slow.

There are millions of insects and hundreds of mammals and birds that have not yet been discovered, described and named.

The number catalogued is put at 1.75 million, but the new report's latest "guesstimate" for the total living on Earth is 13 million.

The great majority of species on the brink of extinction, or

**Forestry land sales:** Ministers accused of failing to protect ramblers' rights



Out of step: Dennis Parkes and his dog Moss in Cotgrave woods, where walkers are now confined to public pathways. Photograph: Keith Dobney

## It's hard to get into the woods today

STEPHEN GOODWIN

Walkers have lost a freedom to rove over 136 square miles of woodland since 1991 despite repeated ministerial pronouncements on safeguarding public access to land sold by the Forestry Commission.

Piecemeal privatisation of Britain's forests has been underway since 1981, but some sales have led to "Private, Keep Out" notices replacing the informal open access practised by the commission.

Government figures show that of the 35,233 hectares of woodland sold since agreements were introduced in October 1991 – an area roughly the size of the Isle of Wight – only 506 hectares (1.4 per cent) has been safeguarded.

The absence of an agreement does not necessarily mean that new owners put up the keep-out

notices. And a good many of the lots sold are uninspiring plantations which attract few, if any, walkers.

Institutional owners, such as pension funds, are generally more content to leave access unchanged than local owners or shooting syndicates. Public rights of way through woodland should be unaffected.

Successive ministers have acknowledged the case for further safeguards. Malcolm Rifkind, the then Secretary of State for Scotland, Michael Forsyth, told the Commons in July 1994 that "millions" of people enjoyed access to Britain's forests and there was a widespread desire for access to be protected. Mr Forsyth will soon endorse revised guidelines including a presumption against sale of woodland unless access can be guaranteed.

Civil servants warned in a review last year that without primary legislation it would remain at best a bureaucratic system providing only site by site protection. Councils are often reluctant to take on the administrative burden of agreements.

The commission is under pressure to meet a government-set target of £20m from land sales this year or 15,000 acres of woodland. However, its last annual report admits that controversy over access has curtailed the sales programme.

Currently 108 publicly-owned woods are up for sale but only 12 carry any guarantee of continued public access. In England an agreement is attached to just one of the 52 woods on offer – the 41-hectares of Old Park wood in South Yorkshire. Significantly it has been stuck on the market for two years.

Cotgrave wood, south-east of Nottingham, is a classic example of where a traditional freedom has been lost.

Since its sale by the Forestry Commission in 1983, the 150 acres of mature woodland, mainly conifers, has passed through two institutional owners and is now in the hands of a family trust.

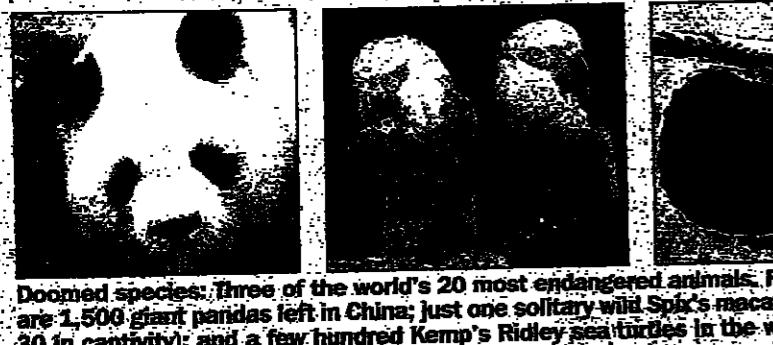
Local walkers, who are now confined to public rights of way, complain of a hostile attitude from a shooting syndicate, a tenant of the Lodey Trust.

Paddy Tipping, Labour MP for nearby Sherwood, who discovered the figures in a Commons written answer, was ordered off woodland by a gamekeeper while out walking with his family last winter.

### Species under threat

Threatened	Endangered	Vulnerable	Sare	Indeterminate	Total
Mammals	177	199	89	533	1,000
Birds	188	241	257	852	5,400
Reptiles	47	88	79	43	257
Amphibians	32	32	55	14	133
Fishes	158	226	246	304	934
Invertebrates	582	702	422	941	2,647
Plants	3,632	5,687	11,485	5,302	26,106

Source: World Conservation Monitoring Centre



Doomed species: Three of the world's 20 most endangered animals. From left, there are 1,500 giant pandas left in China; just one solitary wild Spix's macaw in Brazil (and 30 in captivity); and a few hundred Kemp's Ridley sea turtles in the west Atlantic.

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# Disabled people to be given cash to buy their own care



Highly strung: Christie's is to offer this violin, dated 1736, by Omobono Stradivari, son of the legendary Antonio. Known as the "Doria" after the family that owned it in the 19th century, it is expected to realise between £400,000 and £600,000 in London today. Photograph: John Voss

NICHOLAS TIMMINS  
Public Policy Editor

Local authorities are to be given powers to provide disabled people with cash rather than care in a change heralded as "risky and scary" but as potentially significant as GP fund-holding.

Legislation to be announced in today's Queen's Speech will allow councils to give the disabled cash with which to buy their own packages of care, rather than providing care with services direct under care in the community.

The idea has widespread backing among organisations for the disabled and may in time be extended to the elderly and the less severely mentally ill.

The change marks a watershed for a system in which - with

a few exceptions - the provision of money has been the responsibility of central government through social security since 1948.

Local authorities, outside Scotland, have been limited to providing direct services and are debarred by law from providing cash. The chief exceptions have been small grants to help children and families.

Roy Taylor, director of social services for Kingston, an authority which pioneered direct payments to the disabled before discovering that they were unlawful, said it would make "a fantastic difference to people with disabilities, allowing them to become their own care managers. It will give them control of the services they want to buy and all the evidence is that it will provide better value for money".

As a change to the way care in the community is run, it is "as risky and scary but it is exciting as GP fund-holding", Denise Platt, director of social services with the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said.

The move was signalled last year by Virginia Bottomley when Secretary of State for Health, who said the scheme would initially be limited to "a relatively small group, probably those disabled people who are able and willing to manage their care".

Despite the legal bar, a growing number of local authorities have been circumventing the law in recent years by making payments through third parties - providing grants to local voluntary organisations who then make cash grants to individuals.

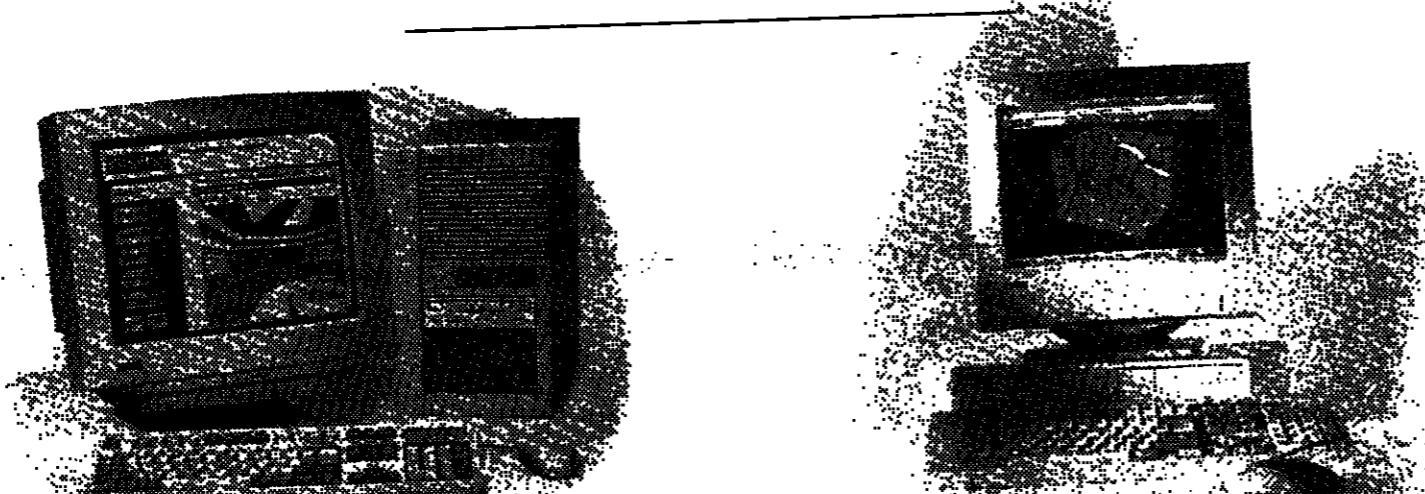
Most disabled people use personal assistants, choosing the hours they want covered and the other services they need. A study undertaken last year by the Policy Studies Institute (PSI) for the British Council of Organisations for Disabled People found that those who handled the cash themselves bought care more cheaply and efficiently than when social services provided the services direct - and reported higher levels of satisfaction. Only 40 per cent said they had unmet needs, against 80 per cent of those receiving allocated services.

Worries that carers could be exploited by those for whom they work - and vice versa - remain, although Mr Taylor said now to overcome such problems.

Local authorities will resist any attempt by government to debar the disabled from buying council services with the cash and insisting that the money is spent in the private and voluntary sectors. They are also anxious that the grants should not become a substitute for social security benefits for the disabled.

Local authorities, however, say that talks with the Government on details of the scheme have gone well and that they are in favour of the scheme in principle. The PSI suggested that 90 per cent of local authorities would make direct payments once the law allowed it.

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PC Computing, June 1995

## DAILY POEM

### Dhows

By Alan Ross

*Slide like brown swans  
Through seas of half-set gelatine,  
Zawadi in gold letters below  
A bowsprit ringing like a goose.*

*Peaked as nuns' coifs sails  
Shelter dreams and hookahs,  
Where heat-dazed, half-alive,  
We squint at dazzling.*

*The same dhows that tolled once  
Off Bombay islands, crews swarthy  
And staring, and the long voyage  
Out of childhood and empire*

*Just begin. Such swaggering boats,  
Elegant in life and lit.  
An aromatic presence that yearly  
Shed familiarity, became truly exotic.*

Alan Ross was born in Calcutta in 1922 and spent his childhood in Bengal, his first experience of Britain being when he was sent to school here at the age of seven. He was educated at St John's College, Oxford, and after the war worked for the British Council and subsequently for the *Observer newspaper*, where he was cricket correspondent from 1953-1972. Since 1961, he has been editor of the *London Magazine*. He has published a number of poetry collections, including *Death Valley* (1980) and two well-received volumes of autobiography, *Blindfold Games* and *Coastwise Lights*, of which his poetry collection *After Pusan* (Harvill, £9.99), from which this poem is taken, is the final triptych.



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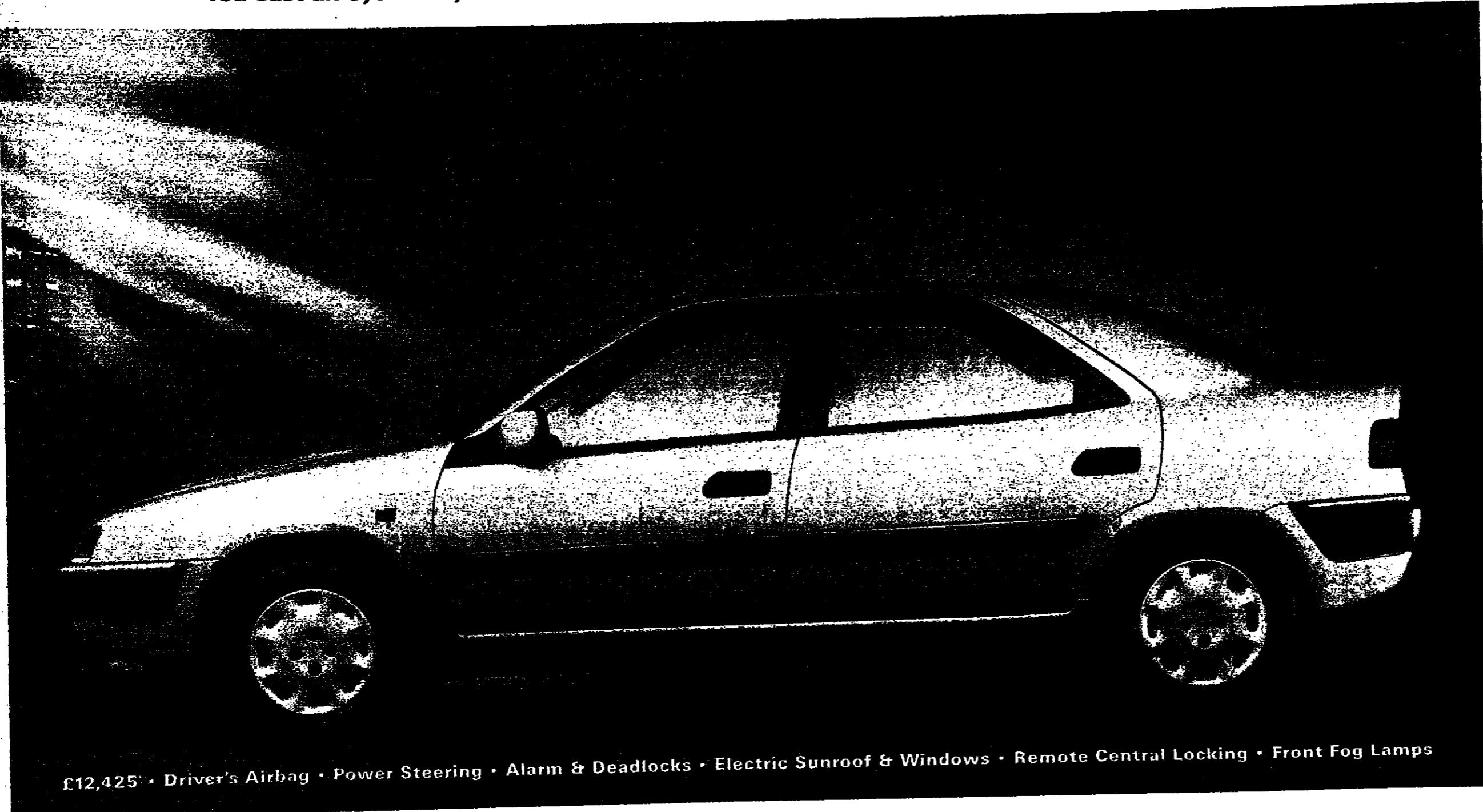
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# news

Cromwell Street trial: Court told the core of the prosecution case rests on the relationship between 'a truly perfect couple'

# West 'involved up to her neck in killings'

**WILL BENNETT**

Rosemary West was involved "up to her neck" with her husband, Frederick, in the nine Cromwell Street killings, Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

"Frederick and Rosemary West were in it together and on that basis you can be sure that these allegations are proved," Brian Leveson QC, prosecuting, said in his final speech to the jury. He said Mrs West had also killed Charmaine West, eight, daughter of Rena, her hus-

band's first wife, while Mr West was still in prison.

Mr West's claims in taped interviews with police that his wife had not been involved were described as "absolutely worthless" by Mr Leveson who said he had repeatedly lied to de-

tectives. Mrs West, 41, denies murdering 10 girls and young women whose remains were found at the couple's house at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, and at their previous home. Mr West who was charged with 12 killings was found hanged in his prison cell on New Year's Day.

Summing up the prosecution case yesterday Mr Leveson said: "We have all every one of us travelled to a place which plumbs the depths of human depravity where we have been forced to consider what human beings can do to one another."

"Rosemary West would have you believe that she saw no evil, that she heard no evil and she spoke no evil. We submit that this flies in the face of all common sense. At the core of this case is the relationship between Frederick and Rosemary West, what they each knew about

each other, what they did to others and how far each was prepared to go. Much of what follows can be explained in the context that both were obsessed with sex."

Mr Leveson said Mrs West was "intelligent, tough and resourceful" but that her memory of events at the centre of the case had been "extremely selective". Describing the couple's relationship he said: "The picture from all the witnesses is that not only were they a devoted couple but also you may think

she was the strategist... Mr and Mrs West were truly perfect together, I can only start to show what a liar he was, how devoted he was to Rosemary West and how he protected her. What I cannot do is by doing this in the most effective way which is by asking him questions to which he has no answer."

"His death was the greatest gift he could give her and that is exactly what he said," Mr Leveson told the jury.

Mr Leveson said that the relationship between Mrs West and Charmaine West, whose re-

mains were found at the Wests' former home at 25 Midland Road, Gloucester, "was marked by aggression and antipathy."

"The Crown contend that the evidence points conclusively towards Mrs West having been responsible for her death," said Mr Leveson, and added that if the jury accepted the evidence of Caroline Owens, who described how she was abducted and sexually assaulted by the Wests in 1972, "she does provide the blueprint for all that was to follow".

Describing the killings of the

victims found at 25 Cromwell Street Mr Leveson said: "Nice times were remains hidden in the grounds of Cromwell Street, nine times. In the cleaning up operation alone we submit establishes that Rosemary West was up to her neck in what was going on. Rosemary West is trying to hide behind Frederick West to cover up her part in the abuse and death of these girls. We submit that there is no doubt that Rosemary West was involved in violently sexually abusing them. We submit that from that evidence you can and ought to con-

clude that she herself intended that each of these girls should die... or at the very least suffer serious bodily harm."

Mr Leveson said that at the very least Mrs West was a party to the killing of Shirley Robinson, a lodger who was pregnant by Mr West, even if she did not actually kill her herself. He also told the jury that Mrs West had constantly changed her story about the disappearance of her daughter Heather, whose remains were found at Cromwell Street.

The trial continues today.

## Quality of life enters the balance sheets

**Cost of tranquillity:** Expansion of official figures to embrace 'environmental evaluation' could trigger pricing frenzy

**JAMES CUSICK**

It is not enough for the Government to publish bare economic statistics to indicate whether the nation is progressing or declining. Now we are entering the world of "environmental valuation".

The Department of Transport has published newly collated research on tranquillity - a factor previously regarded as "unquantifiable" - and fringe economic organisations are now predicting an opening of the official floodgates for other "quality of life" measurements.

In the DoT's review, which is being used as the starting point for further study, the growth of "environmental evaluation" is acknowledged as about to ex-

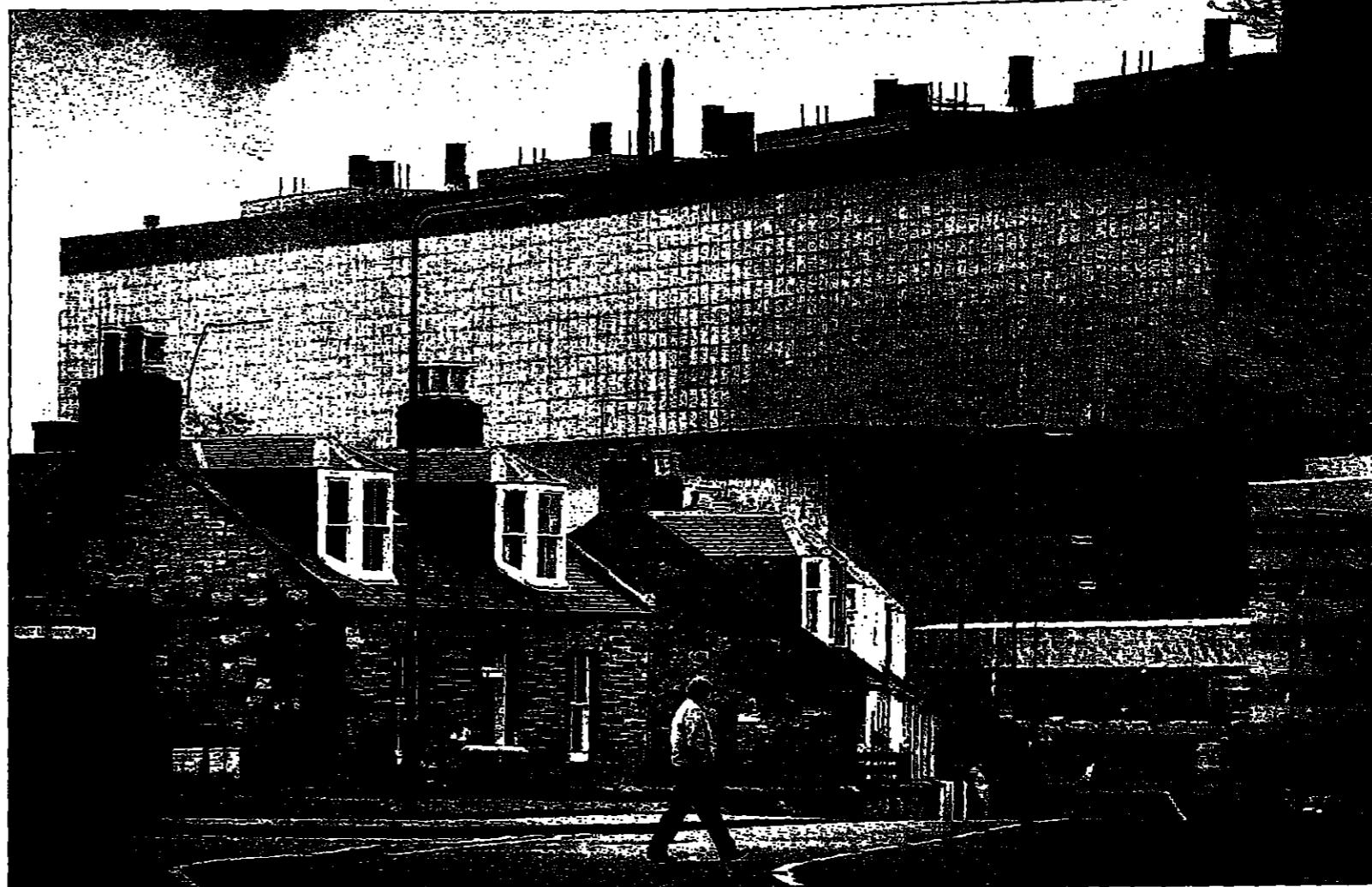
pand. Noise, local air pollution, global warming and the costs of transport were all discussed in the Government report.

The entry of the Government's own statistical bureaucracy into a field still arguing about the merits of putting a price on such factors as happiness, stress, fear and even hope and expectation, brought praise from the New Economic Foundation (NEF), one of the groups which argue that new forms of assessment are urgently needed as the millennium approaches.

The head of the NEF's indicators programme, Alex Macmillivray, said: "Now that tranquillity has been given a value, maybe happiness is next." The NEF argues that with concern over the quality of life, the

old-style gross national product measurement of monetary flow is misleading and offers no guide to the state of the environment.

By using an Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare (ISEW) the NEF believes it has a pragmatic way of measuring quality of life. "We now need to open up this field of study. The DoT's published report this week essentially begins the debate," said Mr Macmillivray.



Living in a shadow: The coastal village of Cockenzie in Lothian is dwarfed by the looming power station

Photograph: Colin McPherson

around £22bn. This is set against GNP and regarded as "waste" by the NEF.

The environmental cost of commuting is estimated by the NEF at £168 per year (double the figure of 20 years ago); the

cost of air pollution is put at £316, water pollution at £58, noise pollution at £18, and the cost to each individual of depleting non-renewable resources such as North Sea oil is put at £1008.

Long-term environmental damage is said to cost each individual an annual £1,405. The cost of ozone depletion, put at £227 a head at the beginning of the Seventies, is now estimated at £876.

The personal levels measured by the NEF survey were described as "conservative" by the researchers.

The cost of commuting or noise pollution in a densely populated city such as London or Birmingham may need to be doubled to reflect the realities of urban life.

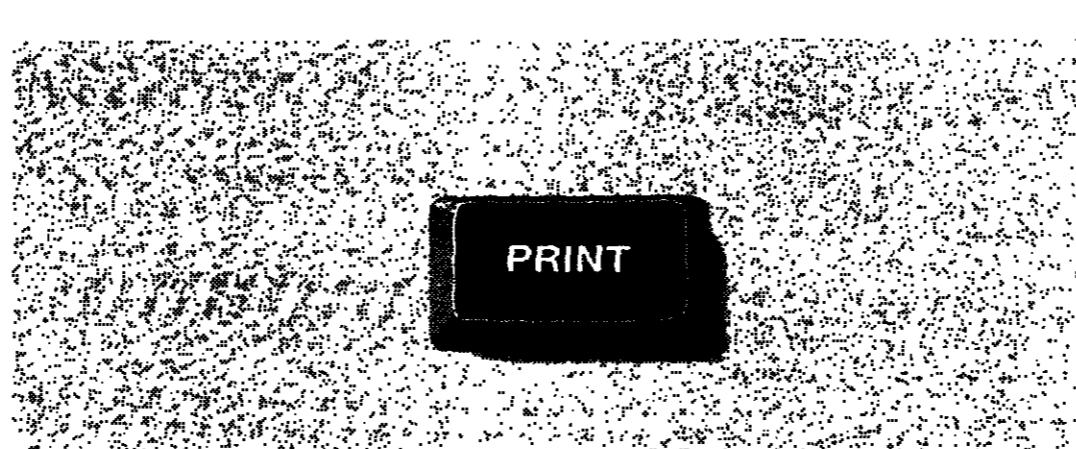
With building societies currently estimating the average cost of a home at £61,000, similar techniques of environmental compensation could be used to evaluate previous "unanalysables". If the house price

fell - due to decreased levels of a good view, increased levels of litter, bad neighbours, rising crime rates and accompanying higher levels of stress, depletion of local facilities such as shops or recreation - the "damage" to the price could thus be given as a percentage of the figure.

One building society told the *Independent* that such measurements were now being considered and could be used to indicate improvements or decline that backed up more than just the "bare price" of a home.

Looking into the future, Mr Macmillivray said: "It may be that in 2020 we will hear news readers leading programmes with government statistics on happiness and satisfaction. The first step has now been taken."

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## international 11

# US hopes for Bosnia deal by next week

TONY BARBER

Europe Editor

US officials expressed confidence yesterday that the Yugoslav peace talks in Ohio could end in a peace settlement by next week despite continuing disputes over Sarajevo's status and other Bosnian territorial issues.

"It's conceivable we can make tremendous progress and if this week it's also conceivable it could go into next week," said Nicholas Burns, State Department spokesman.

He was speaking as the Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, flew to Dayton, Ohio, in an effort to inject momentum into negotiations between Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia's Muslim-led government. One US official said territorial issues had eclipsed constitutional

questions as the biggest obstacle to a Bosnian agreement, but other sources close to the talks said problems had arisen over the role of a future constitutional court in the republic.

This dispute relates to the wider question of how much power should be vested in central Bosnian government institutions and how much should be devolved to the republic's two component parts, the Muslim-Croat federation and a Bosnian Serb entity. The Bosnian Serbs want central institutions to possess only a bare minimum of power, while the Muslim-led government is concerned that if the centre is too weak, Bosnia may suffer permanent partition.

In the case of Sarajevo, constitutional and territorial matters are intertwined, as the Bosnian Serb ambition to divide the city would diminish the authority of the central government.

Acceptance of this broad principle still allows much scope for disagreement. For example, the Serbs insist on a secure corridor around the northern town of Brcko so that Serb-held lands in northern and eastern Bosnia are well connected. But the Bosnian Croats are said to be challenging the Serb position in northern Bosnia by insisting that the town of Orašje, on the Sava river, should remain in Croat hands.

While taking care to play down hopes of a sudden breakthrough this week, US officials



Spoilt for choice: A woman surrounded by cabbages at the market of the frontline Muslim-held town of Travnik, central Bosnia. Photograph: AFP

are clearly making preparations for the announcement of a peace deal. Robert Gallucci, an ambassador at large who handled recent nuclear negotiations with North Korea, has been in Dayton discussing how to implement a peace accord with the three delegations.

Another visitor to Ohio was David Lipton, an Assistant Treasury Secretary, who is dealing with post-war financial

arrangements in Bosnia. State Department officials said on Monday that they hoped a peace settlement could be signed by Thanksgiving, next Thursday.

However, an acute problem for the Clinton administration is the resistance of Congress to the proposed deployment of US troops to Bosnia to patrol a peace settlement. Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich, the

Republican leaders in the Senate and House of Representatives, said in a letter last Friday to President Bill Clinton: "It has become increasingly clear to us that the level of support in Congress for deploying US military forces to Bosnia for peace-keeping is virtually nil."

The Clinton administration wants to send about 20,000 US troops to Bosnia as part of a 60,000-strong Nato force. It

has invested much time and effort in persuading Russia to contribute to the operation and argues that the chances of a stable peace in Bosnia will be slim if Nato forces do not go in.

Already, however, there are signs that the Eastern Slavonia agreement is fraying at the edges. Local Serbs interpret the deal as granting them potential autonomy from Zagreb, while Croatia's government says the accord makes no such promises.

## Portillo alone on Euro-defence

ELIZABETH NASH

Madrid

Britain stands alone in its desire to keep European defence separate from the institutions of the European Union, it was confirmed yesterday. A meeting in Madrid of defence and foreign ministers of the Western European Union, the EU's embryo security arm, ended with scant agreement.

"We must be careful to be clear that the basis of European security is the Atlantic alliance. Other European forces cannot be in competition with that," said the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo.

"Among the 10 full WEU members, we are in a minority of one," admitted a British official, a view echoed by Spain.

holder of the WEU presidency. Ministers from 27 European countries – including the Baltic states and East European countries – approved a document outlining options for Europe's defence policy to be put to next year's inter-government conference (IGC) that will reform the Maastricht treaty.

Consensus on a common conception of European security would have been inconceivable five years ago, the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind said after the meeting, and was "a solid and worthwhile achievement".

But the paper, with its three policy options, only summarises the main differences among WEU nations and does not attempt to resolve them. That task will fall to the IGC. Only Britain supports the first option: that

the strengthening of relations between the two bodies, what

## France marches to save welfare

MARY DEJEVSKY

Paris

Mr Rifkind called "a closer partnership", principally because the European Council contains 15 members, four of whom are neutral, with no defence commitments either under the WEU or Nato," he said.

The WEU should strengthen its operational capacity, its humanitarian role and its relations with Nato, Mr Rifkind said.

"We want the WEU to be an effective defence body," Mr Rifkind stressed that a strong majority of the ministers at yesterday's meeting emphasised inter-government decision-making for all defence issues. There was little danger, the message seemed to run, of the prospect of the Single European Army that Mr Portillo has so forcefully rejected.

An all-out strike and sit-in by students at the university of Rouen has been followed this week by strikes in four other major universities: Metz, Toulouse, Aix-en-Provence and Orléans. They are protesting about shortcomings of staff and resources.

In Bordeaux, where Mr Juppé is mayor, more than 10,000 people demonstrated through the streets of the country's larger cities calling for the system to be saved.

The reform, to be presented to parliament today, is designed to bring the system – currently running up an annual deficit of more than 60bn francs (£8bn) – back into balance in 1997.

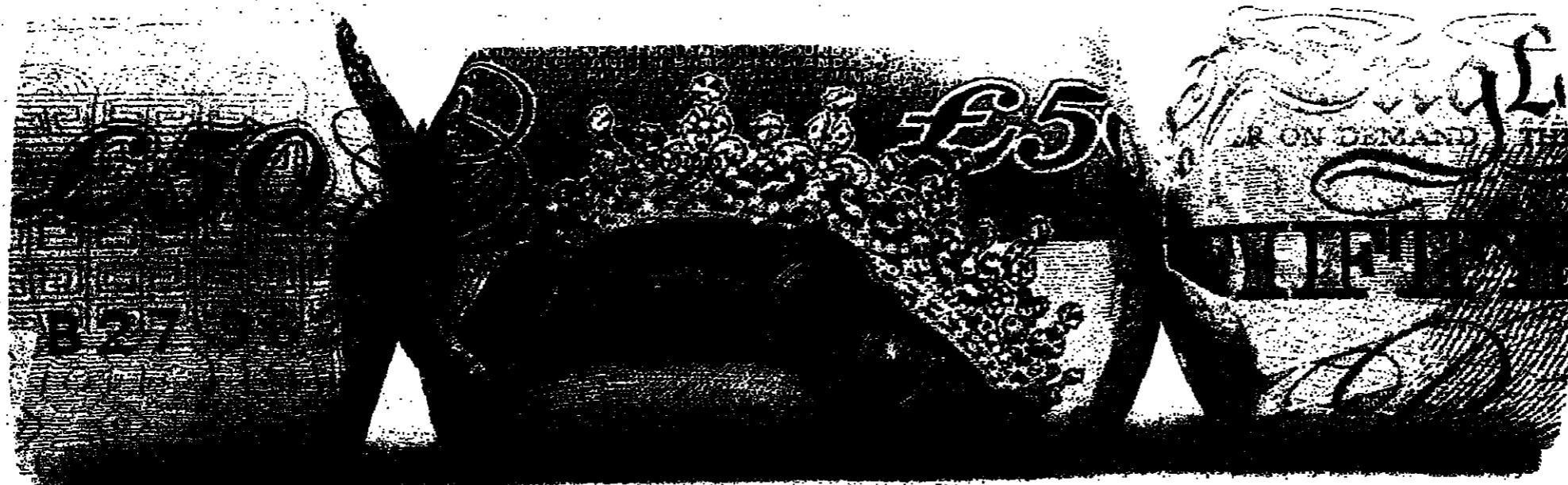
The biggest demonstration was in Paris last night, where thousands of striking public-sector workers carried giant banners saying "defend our

dozens of police and caused millions of francs of damage.

Yesterday, a new and damaging split emerged on the political right in the argument on reform. The Gaullist RPR party, of which Mr Juppé is titular head, held a special meeting to try to minimise divisions when the social security reforms are put to a government vote of confidence later today.

At the meeting, the former prime minister, Edouard Balladur, and his supporters – who have argued that spending cuts, not increases in workers' and employers' contributions, were the answer to the deficit – were called upon to show "more reserve and cohesion". Mr Balladur said he claimed the same "right to freedom of expression as the trade unions have".

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# international

**Clinton vs Congress:** Some 800,000 workers sent home early as tug-of-war over finances brings government near to a halt

## Uncle Sam puts up shutters

RUPERT CORNWELL  
Washington

Hundreds of thousands of US government employees, from social security staff and State Department officials to national-parks rangers and White House chefs, were sent home yesterday, as the impasse over the budget caused the second government shut-down in five years.

In all, about 800,000 "non-essential" workers, more than a third of the federal work force, were likely to be affected by the end of the day, many of them having completed the morning commute to work only to be told within hours to go home.

The only hope lay in new talks between the Republican Congress and Democratic White House on Capitol Hill yesterday in search of a compromise to allow a temporary extension of government spending in the absence of a 1995-96 budget, now six weeks overdue. The signs from both camps were not encouraging, though both publicly hope the closure will last no more than 24 or 48 hours.

Continuing the megaphone diplomacy by television talk show, Leon Panetta, the White House chief of staff, insisted the Republicans had to "back off a little bit", to which Dick Armey,

the House Republican leader and chief lieutenant of Speaker Newt Gingrich, retorted by accusing President Bill Clinton of "wasting everything we send up there. Quite frankly, I'm discouraged."

So too - to put it mildly - are the vast majority of ordinary Americans, exasperated by the arcane game of political chicken being played out in Washington, which has seen President Clinton veto measures from Congress temporarily to

extend the government's borrowing authority and its ability to spend money, because of "unacceptable" conditions attached to them.

The first difficulty seems to have been navigated easily enough, as Robert Rubin, the Treasury Secretary, announced plans to dip into federal pension funds to meet debt repayments on time and avert a government default on international capital markets. The second, however, was increasingly visible yester-

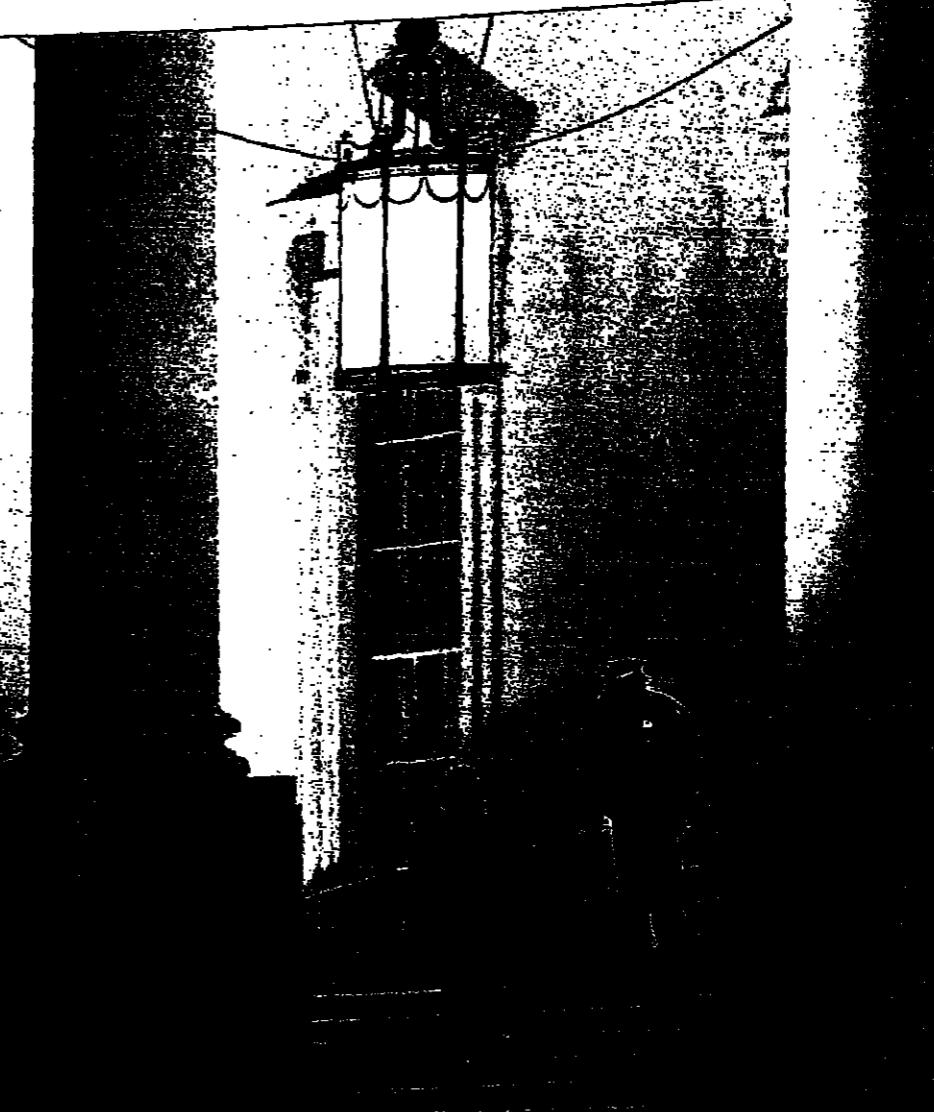
day, as entire government agencies put up the shutters for want of money to pay staff.

The Labor Department was sending almost every worker home at 1pm. The State Department laid off hundreds of lesser minions, though not those conducting the Balkan peace talks in Ohio. At the White House, the President, deemed an "essential" employee, will still be able to function. But staff in the executive West Wing will be reduced to 90 from 430, and

in the residential East Wing from 70 to under 20. There will be only one chef instead of four, and only one butler and usher per shift.

More seriously, the row is starting to interfere with the President's travel plans. A six-day stay in Japan that was to have started today has been compressed to a weekend sprint of summity on the other side of the Pacific.

If the impasse drags on, Mr Clinton might have to shorten, or even scrap, his visit to Britain and Ireland, starting on 28 November. Officials resolutely reject suggestions that the White House would welcome an excuse to shelve the trip, given the deadlock in the Northern Ire-



Guards on the White House steps in the hours before the shutdown. Photograph: AP

### Sorry, Lady Liberty is closed

DAVID USBORNE  
New York

"Excuse me. Can you tell us what has happened?" Antonio Bernardino, from Brazil, is confused. He has a ticket for the boat ride to New York's most famous tourist landmark, Lady Liberty herself, and has been queuing on the wharf for 20 minutes. Now he is being told he cannot go.

The explanation - that politicians in Washington cannot agree on a new budget and that there is no money left to run things - does not ease his befuddlement. Rather, it deepens it. "All the money is finished in the United States," he

asks. "But that is ludicrous."

Mr Bernardino and about 50 other tourists, most of them foreign, who are gathered in Battery Park for the ride to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island are unlucky. The two sites, run by the National Parks Service, had started the day open. But as the ferry drew in to take the group on board, the announcement came: "Sorry. Stop. We're closed."

Mike Gilson, from San Francisco, had promised the trip to his five-year-old daughter Sarah. Today they must return home. "She really wanted to see the Lady with the fire in her hand. I guess now we have to find some other attraction in

New York not controlled by the government."

Most baffled is the delegation of businessmen from China in dark suits and with cameras around their necks. It takes them a while to understand that there is no longer any point queuing by the empty ferry.

Bao Junlong, the only one with any English, finally gets the picture. "But I paid for my ticket, so the government has money now," he insists.

Finally he gives up, takes a regretful glance at the statue in the distance across the water, and begins to walk back to the street muttering: "And when the Americans come to China, maybe we close the Great Wall."

## Back to the futures to cement that special relationship

"Hog butchery of the world", they call Chicago. The slaughterhouse and packaging hub for the meat and vegetables of the Great Plains. The heart of the world futures market, the home of the world's tallest building, the birthplace of the 20th-century gangster. Savagely cold in winter, so hot in summer that 500 were boiled alive one weekend in July. It's a rough, hard, no-frills town. Not what you might call refined.

So what to make of the fact that on Saturday morning 100 people braved the first snows of winter to attend a lecture by a white-haired professor in a grey suit on Ancient Egyptian Erotic Poetry?

The people in the lecture room weren't weirdos. Not closet paedophiles or Egyptologists

nuts. They were bankers, lawyers, doctors, housewives, adolescents on an outing with mom and dad, participants in what - on superficial inspection - might be considered an oxymoron, the sixth annual Chicago Humanities Festival, on the theme of "Love and Marriage".

Among the 45 subjects discussed at nine august Chicago venues were "Continuity in Inuit Culture through love and children"; "Love and Death in Italian Opera"; "Lesbians at home"; "Lyton Strachey, Carrington and the Triangular Trinity of Happiness"; "Plato's Symposium"; "Stevie Wonder"; and "Love and Marriage in Pharaonic Egypt".

Erotic poetry in the age of Nefertiti and Rameses II proved to be some notches

down from Ovid, not to say *Hustler* magazine, on the prurience scale. Professor Lanny David Bell of the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute did his best to inject some fire into the line "I'll lie on my bed perfectly still feigning terminal illness", but only evoked something resembling a sexual frisson from his audience at the mention of the word (imaginatively translated from the hieroglyphics) "nippleberries".

Professor Bell also delivered himself of some interesting pieces of information, complete with accompanying slide-shows. I had not known, for example, that when the man-gods and woman-goddesses of the Egyptian royalty took to their chambers they engaged in love-making to the lascivious

pleasings of blind men playing the harp.

The question remained, however, what were a hundred Chicago hog-butchers doing spending their morning listening to this stuff when they could have been sitting at home watching the College Football on TV? I spoke to some of them. "Self-enrichment", they said; or "I'm curious to learn about the Old World"; or "I want to expose myself to the possibility of new interests".

You'd have to be a cynic not to be impressed. My experience had taught me to see America as a giant market-place inhabited by people driven, to the ex-

clusion of almost all else, by the imperative to make money and generally get ahead. Here were ordinary Americans absorbing culture for culture's sake, without any hope of material gain.

At the "Plato's Symposium" event, notably, 500 people jammed into a hall to hear a group of actors playing Aristophanes, Socrates and Dionysius discuss the nature of supreme beauty and the dichotomy between earthly and heavenly love.

Stevie Wonder was something else altogether. He walked on stage to a thunderous, all-American welcome at the Orchestra Hall theatre wearing a

chance to have her case for preventing the marriage heard.

A jury of 12 Chicago worthies struck a blow for love, if not for marriage, when they delivered a verdict that showed they had been persuaded by the argument that if Henry did not remarry and sire a male heir "England will regress to the darkness of wannabes like Richard III".

Besides, the couple had been living "in separate castles" for two years and, according to Illinois law, that was reason enough for marital dissolution.

The bad news for Henry was that he would have to pay up in alimony a large chunk of a royal fortune reckoned by the financiers of the Chicago Pasts markets to have stood at \$1.6bn.

John Carlin

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## Win a Ski holiday for 2 in Keystone, Colorado, with the INDEPENDENT

Plus K2 skis and snowboards to be won

Get into the winter fun and excitement of Keystone, Colorado, with the INDEPENDENT Extreme Ski Competition. To celebrate the release of Warren Miller's new film, "Endless Winter" (presented by Labatt's Blue), winners of spectacular snowboard contests we've teamed up with Black Diamond Films to bring you your own taste of extreme skiing.

We're offering readers of the *Independent* the chance to start the ski season in style with our Extreme Ski prize draw. Our exclusive first prize is a seven day holiday for two in the majestic mountains of Colorado, USA. You'll be staying in the top ski resort of Keystone which offers world-class accommodation plus the superb experience of night skiing. Not only that, but with your interchangeable lift ticket you'll be able to take to the slopes of Keystone, Breckenridge and Arapahoe Basin.

Spoilt for choice, you'll be able to ski and snowboard through champagne powder snow glistening beneath deep blue Colorado skies.

For our next six winners, we have a fabulous range of K2 skis and snowboards to choose from. The four ski models available are the FX 11.2 from the Adrenalin series; MSL 10.0 from the Attack series; 5500 CS from the Unlimited series and the 5500 NS from the ladies' Unlimited series. If you'd like to try your hand at snowboarding, then you could be surfing on K2's Dart Freestyle snowboard or the Eldorado 164 Extreme and Freeriding snowboard.

Twenty-four readers will receive a pair of Vail Regulator Goggles from Smith, the number one brand in the UK. These goggles feature an advanced anti-fog system, perfect for the serious skier. Fifty readers will receive a Turtie Fur neck warmer, great for mountain tops and bus stops!

Also available are three hundred copies of Warren Miller's video *Born to Ski*. Destined to take your breath away, it features extreme skiing at its best. Another seven winners will each receive a case of Labatt's Blue Beer.

### INDEPENDENT/SKI ENTRY FORM

Send your completed entry form, along with 5 differently numbered tokens, (including one from the *Independent* on Sunday) to: *Independent/Extreme Ski Prize Draw*, P.O. Box 88, Weywyn Green, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 1TD. Closing date: 4 December 1995.

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ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

DAY TIME TELEPHONE NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

To enter our prize draw you must collect five differently numbered tokens from the seven we are publishing this week in the *Independent* on Sunday and the *Independent*. One token must come from the *Independent* on Sunday. Today we print Token 4, and an entry form. Rules are as previously published.

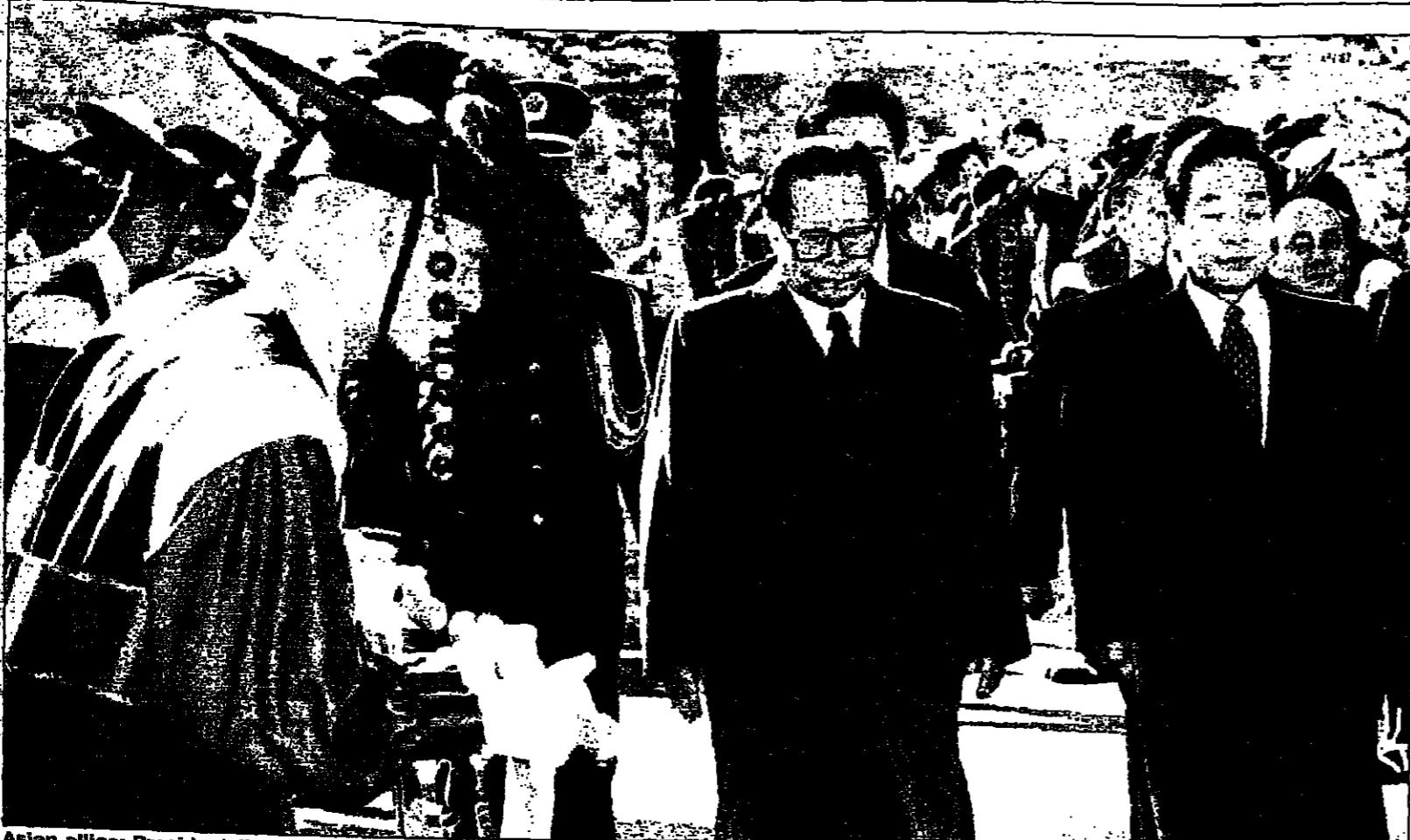
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JULY 10 1995

## international 13



Asian allies: President Jiang (centre) and President Kim of South Korea inspecting a ceremonial guard in Seoul. Photograph: Yun Jai Hyung/Reuters

## China warns of Japanese 'militarist minority'

TERESA POOLE  
Peking

China and South Korea sealed their closer relationship yesterday with a joint attack on Japan's failure to repent fully for its wartime record.

President Jiang Zemin's visit to Seoul, the first trip to South Korea by a Chinese head of state, will thus have succeeded both in unsettling Pyongyang and irritating Tokyo. Mr Jiang and his South Korean counterpart, Kim Young Sam, extended their meeting by half an hour to discuss the Japanese issue. "Japan should have a correct view of history," Mr Jiang told a joint news conference. "We will correct

Japan's bad habits," promised Mr Kim. "We must be vigilant against a Japanese militarist minority," Mr Jiang added.

The scene was set for the joint attack by the resignation on Monday of Takami Eto, a Japanese cabinet minister, who infuriated Seoul last week by claiming Japan "did some good things" during its brutal colonial rule of the Korean peninsula. The row had threatened to cancel a summit meeting between Mr Kim and the Japanese Prime Minister, Tomiochi Murayama, at the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum, starting in Osaka this week.

Japan's war record was not the only point of agreement between the Chinese and South

Korean presidents. Both stressed burgeoning trade and investment links that have been cemented since diplomatic relations were established in 1992.

Two-way trade is expected to reach \$15bn (£9.6bn) this year, so that China is now South Korea's third-largest trading partner. The two countries are to increase co-operation in developing medium-size passenger aircraft, nuclear energy and Russian gas fields.

These growing links are viewed with concern in Pyongyang. China is North Korea's only significant ally, and Mr Jiang's visit will make Pyongyang feel even more isolated. North Korea is already feeling humiliated by having to

admit that the country suffers from drastic food shortages and needs supplies of foreign rice.

Meanwhile, China yesterday notched up another post-Tiananmen Square 1989 milestone when the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, became the first Western leader to inspect a division of the People's Liberation Army. Mr Kohl was given an exhibition of Chinese

martial arts and tasted a soldier's breakfast at a division outside Peking.

As with all China-related state visits, business was the main focus. German companies have signed \$1bn of contracts with Chinese enterprises so far during Mr Kohl's visit, in space technology, shipbuilding, power industry, cars and telecommunications.

## Day of decision for Shell on Nigeria project

NICHOLAS SCHOON  
and Reuter

A decision on whether to go ahead with a huge gas project in Nigeria will be made by Shell and its partners at a board meeting in Lagos today, as the international uproar continues over the executions of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other campaigners for the Ogoni people.

Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Amnesty International and others are planning a day of protest actions this weekend against Shell and the Nigerian government.

The project is backed by a joint venture company, Nigerian LNG Ltd. The largest shareholder is the Nigerian government, which owns just under half the shares. Next comes Shell, followed by French and Italian oil companies. The World Bank has pulled out of its small involvement because of the executions.

Yesterday, senior Shell executives said they wanted to press on with the £2.5bn liquefied natural gas project, which would be the biggest single industrial investment in sub-Saharan Africa.

Brian Anderson, managing director of the Shell subsidiary operating in Nigeria, said yesterday: "Shell Nigeria remains firmly committed to the long term future of the country and its people."

The plant's four-year construction would create 6,000 jobs in the oil-producing Niger delta region, where poverty and unemployment are high.

The project presents a dilemma for environmental groups. It should curb the gas flaring, which contributes to the environmental destruction that oil production has caused in the delta. But the investment could be seen as helping the military regime.

The Friends of the Earth UK director, Charles Seccett, said: "If Shell continue to behave as it has in the past, they should get out right away. They have to commit themselves to fulfilling social and environmental obligations."

Nigeria's military government yesterday launched a campaign to improve the country's image. "All the evil propaganda against Nigeria is 'Not in our character,'" Lieutenant-General Jeremiah Useni said, preceding the launch in the capital on Friday of books and films bearing that title.

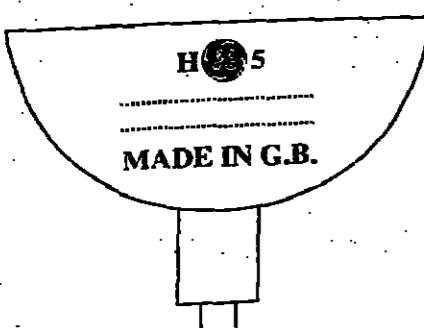
Nigeria blamed Britain for its suspension from the Commonwealth. "About five months ago, a British cabinet minister, Lynda Chalker [minister of state for overseas development], threw all diplomatic niceties to the winds by publicly declaring that Nigeria might be barred from the Commonwealth conference", state-owned radio said.

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M O B I L E P H O N E S

# international

## Riyadh blast a declaration of war, says dissident

MICHAEL SHERIDAN  
Diplomatic Editor

A leading Saudi Arabian dissident who has sought refuge in Britain was yesterday quoted as saying the bomb blast in Riyadh on Monday was a "war declaration" against the Saudi royal family.

He predicted more acts of violence and attributed the car bomb attack on an American training centre to disgruntled young Saudis trained in Afghanistan. Six people, five of them Americans, died in the explosion and 60 were injured, including an Indian worker who died yesterday.

Professor Mohammed Masari's comments in an interview with the Associated Press are likely to lead to renewed demands from the Saudi government for Britain to curb the activities of dissidents in London.

"The question is to whom the war declaration is directed - and that's to the Saudi regime," Mr Masari said, adding that the bombers "chose a target that would be acceptable to everyone." He expected that "there will be more violent action but not necessarily this form."

The professor heads a group known as the Committee for Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR), which attacks the royal family's alleged corruption and seeks firmer adherence to the Sharia, or Islamic law.

Although the group insists it advocates peaceful reform, its agitation for change has infuriated the Saudi royal family. The subject was raised last week at talks in Jeddah between the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, and King Fahd. It also came up at Mr Rifkind's meeting with the Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal. British business in the kingdom said last week they feared the issue could damage Britain's commercial interests.

Mr Rifkind said the Govern-

ment did not like the presence of people such as Mr Masari but could take no action against them unless they broke the law. "We take a very hard line but we act against terrorism, not opinions," Mr Rifkind said.

The Home Office is reviewing an appeal by Mr Masari against deportation to Yemen and he has also lodged an application for political asylum.

The security services are believed to be keeping a close eye on Mr Masari and the CDLR. There is little doubt that if officials can find a reason to get Mr Masari out of the country they will do so.

Two little-known groups, the Islamic Change Movement and the Tigers of the Gulf, claimed responsibility for Monday's bombing. Such titles are often no more than a *nom de guerre*, giving no clues to the identity of the perpetrators.

But both Mr Masari and Western officials agree on the likelihood that the bombing could be the work of so-called "Afghan" devout young men trained by the CIA and Pakistan's military intelligence to use arms and explosives against Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

Many have returned to the Middle East to discover a new outlet for their skills, joining a pool of discontented youth who regard existing governments as corrupt and see Islam as the solution. Some have made their way to Bosnia to fight as mujahedin alongside forces of the Muslim-led government in Sarajevo.

■ Geneva — Swiss police have launched a top-level investigation after an Egyptian trade diplomat was shot dead in the car park of a luxury apartment block housing senior UN officials and foreign envoys. Diplomats fear the shooting of Ahmed Alaa Nazmi, 42, was a political assassination. The Egyptian government is battling a violent campaign against it by Muslim fundamentalists.



Child support: In the run-up to tomorrow's poll, a young Algerian displays a poster of Sheikh Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the 'moderate' Hamas Islamic party. Photograph: AP

## Polling amid songs of love, rumours of terror

There was Andalusian love music. There were white-liveried waiters. There was a Saudi, a handful of Egyptians and Palestinians, and four officials from the South African Foreign Ministry. And there was outside in the darkening, Mediterranean breeze, a very large number of policemen. The Algerian election was reaching its final pre-vote stage.

On the first floor of the Aurassi hotel, hovering high over Algiers like a great battleship, all bridges and concrete decks, the government or the GIA's (Armed Islamic Group) threat to kill anyone who voted, had stockpiled up with three days of food and water to tide them over Algeria's latest experiment in democracy? Could it be possible — and here was a real trip down fantasy lane, courtesy of a well-known London newspaper — that 500 suicide bombers were going to assault Algiers today and tomorrow to destroy all the rumours.

Rumours are the cancer of every election. Was it true that the people of Bab el-Oued, intimidated by the GIA's (Armed Islamic Group) threat to kill anyone who voted, had stockpiled up with three days of food and water to tide them over Algeria's latest experiment in democracy? Could it be possible — and here was a real trip down fantasy lane, courtesy of a well-known London newspaper — that 500 suicide bombers were going to assault Algiers today and tomorrow to destroy all the rumours.

the election? The Algerian war may be savage, but surely not that exotic.

Dr Ali Abdal Karim, assistant secretary-general of the Arab League, certainly didn't think so. He is dispatching his brave 44 delegates to the cities and to the *bedd* today to observe the quality of fairness, protection or intimidation under which the population might suffer. Was he satisfied with security? Yes he was.

Men from the Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity and the UN with delegations of Andalusian love, but it was a good way of forgetting all the rumours.

Across the auditorium, Dr Leila Aslavi, in charge of President Zeroual's election, had no doubt. A former minister in the Zeroual government whose dentist husband was murdered by "Islamists" a year ago, she stood, unsmiling, with all the confidence of a well-educated Westernised lady, which she is. "Zeroual is the man we need — he doesn't promise adventures, he promises stability and peace. He is the guarantee of order. I go for programmes, not personalities — and Zeroual's programme calls for dialogue."

Not dialogue with the Islamic Salvation Front or the armed Islamists who threaten the government, but dialogue with those who are going to lose Thursday's election: with Sheikh Mahfoud Nahnah of what is called the "moderate" Hamas Islamic party, with Said Sadi, the secular Kabyle leader who runs the Rassemblement

voted, all of them — didn't you see the pictures of the crowds? It will be the same here?

Will it? Perhaps Mrs Aslavi will prove to be right and the people will flock to the polling booths tomorrow despite the bloodthirsty threats from the GIA, despite the fact that the FIS, which stood to win the last national elections until they were cancelled in January 1992, is now illegal.

Today, the popular rumour has it, will be a test, not just for the will of Algeria's potential 16 million voters but for the armed groups who say they are determined to smash the election and for the tens of thousands of troops and policemen patrolling the streets of Algiers and Oran and Constantine in fleets of jeeps and Saladin armoured vehicles. No one, at least, will be able to dispute their desire for elections. The army and police all voted on Tuesday.

### IN BRIEF

#### Hostage alert

Srinagar — Two of four Western hostages held in Kashmir by Al-Faraj guerrillas since early July are ill and one of them is struggling for life, according to their captors. A handwritten statement said the Indian government would be responsible if any of the hostages died.

The statement did not identify which hostages were unwell but India said last week that an American, Doug Hothams, and one of the two British hostages, Paul Wells and Keith Mangan, was ill.

#### Added protection

Jerusalem — Israel ordered an urgent airlift of hundreds of bulletproof vests from the US last week after Yitzhak Rabin's assassination. *Maariv* newspaper reported. It said the vests were for security men and Israeli officials deemed at risk. *Reuter*

#### Mitterrand 'well'

Paris — François Mitterrand is doing well despite his prostate cancer, and there are no plans for a third operation on the 79-year-old former French president, his wife Danielle said after persistent rumours that his health was rapidly deteriorating. *AP*

#### Tiger HQ overrun

Colombo — Sri Lankan forces, which now control the northern suburbs of Jaffna, have captured the main political headquarters of Tamil Tiger rebels on the outskirts of the guerrilla stronghold. *Reuter*

#### US cool on UN plan

New York — The United States said it would not support any expansion of the 15-member United Nations Security Council unless Germany and Japan gained permanent membership. *AP*

#### 'Dirty-war' row

Madrid — A Senate committee set up to investigate Spain's "dirty war" against Basque ETA rebels formally began work, only to break up in acrimony amid opposition charges of obstruction by the ruling Socialists. *Reuter*

#### Death by stoning

Tehran — Mehdi Barazandeh, an Iranian mystic of the Dervish sect, was stoned to death in Hamadan, 180 miles west of Tehran, after a court found him guilty of adultery and a homosexual act, *Jomhuri Islami* newspaper reported. *Reuter*

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## BUSINESS TRAVEL

INDEPENDENT • WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 1995

# Trains signal start of ground battle with airlines

**CHRISTIAN WOLMAR**  
Transport Correspondent

The Eurostar service linking London with Paris and Brussels has just celebrated its first birthday and has taken just under three million passengers through the Channel Tunnel. And by the time it is in the process of revolutionising attitudes towards rail travel.

Of course, Eurostar has had its share of problems, the odd broken down train and even 500 passengers decanted in the middle of the French countryside because of a terrorist scare. That doesn't happen on British Airways. But nor does the pleasure of sitting in a hassle-free environment while you travel from city centre to city centre, allowing you to work, read or doze in a way that is simply impossible on those short hop flights.

For the first time, British Airways has admitted that it is losing significant numbers of passengers to the train services. The airline estimates that it has lost 13 per cent on the Paris route but because the market is growing so strongly, BA is

unlikely to reduce the number of flights. Indeed, it is putting the large 350 seater T7s on the route when they eventually come into service in order to train the pilots on a short-haul route, and, presumably, to put the squeeze a bit on Eurostar.

Andrew Hellawell, editor of *Rail Business Report*, reckons that high speed trains have changed the travel landscape: "Many people who have gone on Eurostar swear they will never take another plane again if they have the choice of the train. It is so much more convenient." Indeed, whereas city centre to city centre journeys times are not necessarily faster on Eurostar, the period spent on the train is "quality time".

Of course, British travellers on Eurostar are learning what our European counterparts have known for a decade or more and the Japanese realised 30 years ago when they first introduced bullet trains - that high speed rail travel is by far the best way to travel over distances of anything up to 300 miles.

With the success of the French TGV network, other



The Inter-City 225: High-speed rail links will provide an alternative to flight.

Photograph: North News and Pictures

countries across Europe are now building similar networks and finding that they are universally popular. France, Germany, Italy and Spain now all run commercial services which operate at an average speed of 210 kph (130 mph)

while Britain runs services on the East Coast main line, refurbished in the early 1990s, at 200 kph. Some countries, like Sweden and the UK are concentrating on improving existing track for high speed running because of the high

cost of high speed lines, although Britain should get its first - and probably only - high speed line when the 68-mile Channel Tunnel Rail Link, due to start in 1997, is finally completed. Tilting trains, a technology first developed in

the UK but ditched, many think prematurely, after problems with the prototype which caused travel sickness, are being used in Italy, Sweden and Spain.

Other countries such as Belgium, Spain and France

are mostly building dedicated high-speed lines. In France, 44 million people now annually take a high-speed train ride and where some airline routes already exist the presence of a TGV station has become an all-important factor in determining business location. There was a big battle between Amiens and Lille over the route of the TGV Nord which is now used by Eurostar trains. Lille won because it was on the way to Brussels, despite actually not being on the direct route to the Channel Tunnel, but there are plans to build a more direct line via Amiens early in the next decade.

To overcome concerns about the reliability of rail travel, some services offer refunds if trains are late. On Eurostar, for example, you get a free journey for half-an-hour's delay and a free return ticket if the train is two hours late. There have been quite a few teething problems on the service which has led to only around 85 per cent of trains arriving within 15 minutes of schedule, but with the service bedding in, the

## Former Soviet states seek solutions

NEIL TAYLOR

For an airport that had no international flights at all five years ago, Riga must now be proud to have become Europe's latest battleground in an air fares war. While the computer may claim that a businessman making a quick midweek trip there has to pay around £900, regional travel specialists should easily be able to offer a ticket for no more than £250. Over a weekend, that £250 will buy not only the flight but also a comfortable hotel room for three nights. Air Baltic and Riga Air offer daily direct flights from Gatwick and with Austrian Air, Finnair, Lufthansa and SAS providing connections via their home bases, fares should continue to be reduced.

The situation is fortunately similar in the CIS as these same carriers, plus Air France and KLM, all struggle for a share in a market as reluctant to grow as any other in the current travel business. The airlines most likely to succeed are those who account for two factors: firstly that 80 per cent of the British population do not live in London and will pay extra to avoid travel via Heathrow or Gatwick and secondly that travel via Moscow is hated just as vehemently by anyone travelling elsewhere in Russia or to other CIS capitals. KLM have always thrived on serving the UK regions via Amsterdam, so towns as far apart as Aberdeen and Bristol both have regular connections to Moscow, Kiev and even Almaty, the capital of Kazakhstan. A couple of years ago, Lufthansa decided it would be politically prudent as well as commercially sensible to start a service from Frankfurt to Ekaterinburg. Boris Yeltsin's home town, which was known as Sverdlovsk in the Soviet era. None of the town's hotels offer a particularly appetising breakfast but the food can probably be accepted with better grace now that it is possible to fly back to Birmingham, Manchester or Glasgow in time for an early supper on the same day.

From being a monopoly during the Soviet era, Aeroflot now has to face competition from an increasing number of Russian regional airlines. Should the currently moribund industries in Ekaterinburg turn out to have a more successful future than Yeltsin, the local carrier Ural Air plans direct international services to Britain and other Western European countries. Cynics may doubt the need for a service from Britain to Sochi or Samara, but local entrepreneurs are determined to prove them wrong by starting services during 1996. The success of a twice-weekly flight from Gatwick to Minsk which started this summer must give them hope. Most of these new airlines of course use Western aircraft to add to their appeal.

While the airlines may be keen to put the Soviet past behind them, few hotels outside Moscow and St Petersburg have managed to do so. Aspirations are great; The Villon, generally regarded as the best hotel in Vilnius advertises "a pleasant relax" "excellent cuisine" and a "charming monthly dinner dance". The

Hotel de Rome in Riga promises "excellent relation between price and service", quite a boast as several bottles of wine on their wine-list cost between £100 and £200.

All over the former USSR the corporation executive willing to pay £150 a night, and the backpacker determined only to spend £10 at most on a room, will have no difficulty in fulfilling their very different needs. A fairly central three-star room, however, for £30-£40 a night is as difficult to find in Riga as it is in Almaty. I can think of only two hotels throughout the Baltics/CIS that fulfill this basic requirement - the Izzmailovo in Moscow and the Central in Tallinn. Sadly the next few years offer few prospects of improvement; the glamour of running a five-star hotel still appeals more than the commercial return that would result from a product known worldwide to be profitable. Russian hoteliers are unlikely to take kindly to the thought that they should study the current market in Tirana, the capital of Albania. Those willing to do so will see an empty five-star hotel and a full three-star one.

Visa fees are now seen in the CIS in the same light as they are by Finance Ministers in the West; they raise revenue painlessly as nobody who pays has a vote. Those who fail to pay the £40 fee demanded for an "urgent" visa by the Ukrainian Embassy in London, can instead pay £100 on arrival. In comparison, the new Kiev airport departure tax of £10 seems totally trivial.

The Soviet Union ceased to exist at the end of 1991 but it was only last month that their visa forms were replaced by purely Russian ones. The questions, however, have not changed, surprising as the answers no longer matter. British businessmen who restrict their activities to the Balkans will have no visas in their passports, an invaluable concession to regular travellers. Irish, French and German competitors will, however, have to pay to around £20 for a visa on each visit. These are at least issued quickly on arrival at Tallinn, Riga or Vilnius airports.

Last week I went to the Russian Consulate in Edinburgh at five o'clock in the afternoon to hand in a visa application for a client. I waited at most five minutes in a well-heated, spacious room. This should not be worthy of comment but it is a sad reflection on the hours kept by most embassies in London that the Edinburgh Consulate is unique for Britain in being open until six in the evening. Many London consulates do not open at all in the afternoon. The London Russian Consulate is so keen to turn away business that it closes all day on Wednesday.

Departure from Russia is rarely a happy or a quick experience. An unwarranted service charge may appear on the final hotel bill, the lack of public transport requires a taxi transfer to the airport and an hour in a check-in queue is all too normal. There remains just one cause for consolation; not a single Russian airport has yet introduced a departure tax.

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A SPECIAL REPORT

## BUSINESS TRAVEL

**Jeremy Atiyah** reports on the developments in aircraft technology which continue to improve the in-flight experience

# Getting better by design?

olution, not revolution, is the word when it comes to future developments in aircraft design: even the Boeing 747, flying since 1969, is in no danger of becoming obsolete just yet.

Boeing's latest creature, the 777, has been billed as the plane of the 21st century: a model with a projected life span of 50 years. Running on two giant engines rather than four, it is far cheaper to run and considerably less noisy than its predecessors.

Flying is becoming ever cheaper and more reliable than, but is it becoming more pleasant? Latest developments indicate that it is. BA already has its 'sleeper' service on long-haul flights, in which travellers sleep before departure and are then tucked up with pyjamas and a duvet. And this is now being taken a step further. Each first class traveller is soon to have two partially screened off seats, one for himself and one for a 'guest'. At the touch of a button these will combine into a flat six-foot bed, discreetly angled away from its neighbour.

Hours. Dinner will be served at the convenience of the passenger, à la carte menus, waiter service and no trolley.

Perhaps, predictably, Virgin is also warming to the idea of beds. They have plans for real bedrooms with doors, which will effectively become their new first class. By the end of next year, they are even hoping to install double beds in some aircraft in a bid to revive what they call the lost romance of travel. Virgin, remember, have already introduced massage therapy in their Upper Class for long-haul flights, a development that has apparently caused much kerfuffle among the Japanese business community.

Another booming area is that of in-flight communications and entertainment. The liquid display video screen is an automatic feature of every seat of every class in the Boeing 777. Very soon individuals in all classes will be choosing their own entertainments: BA next year will be relaunching all its

economy class cabins to provide 24 channels of video and audio to every seat with video games and shopping by wire to while away those tedious hours.

In-flight telephones are also set to become a standard feature. This year European airlines first offered the opportunity to passengers to make calls to anywhere in the world. Within six months, United Airlines' 777s will all be equipped with telephones in every seat, with automatic credit card payment. A point for modems will also be available, thus enabling travellers to send faxes and data from their own portable computers. It will not even be particularly expensive. Jetphone, who pioneered the service in Europe, are currently charging £3.30 per minute, whatever the destination of the call.

The check-in procedure is another area under review. Ticketless travel is growing in popularity in the US and is likely to spread worldwide. Just make a reservation and carry an ID. In the UK, Virgin are hoping to

introduce "kerb-side" check in, near the airport, where all baggage can be off-loaded, cars parked and passengers taken by bus to the terminal. Checks in by phone whilst driving to the airport in limousines will be another option.

Change also looms in one other vital area. The language and robotic intonation patterns employed by flight attendants. BA has identified the use of odd expressions such as "extinguish all smoking materials" as a problem. Cabin staff are currently being trained to speak like human beings again.

Concerning travel times, customers cannot expect to see radical changes in flights in the near future. Change is piecemeal; in recent years for example on trans-Atlantic routes, flight patterns have tended towards smaller planes flying directly to smaller and more numerous destinations.

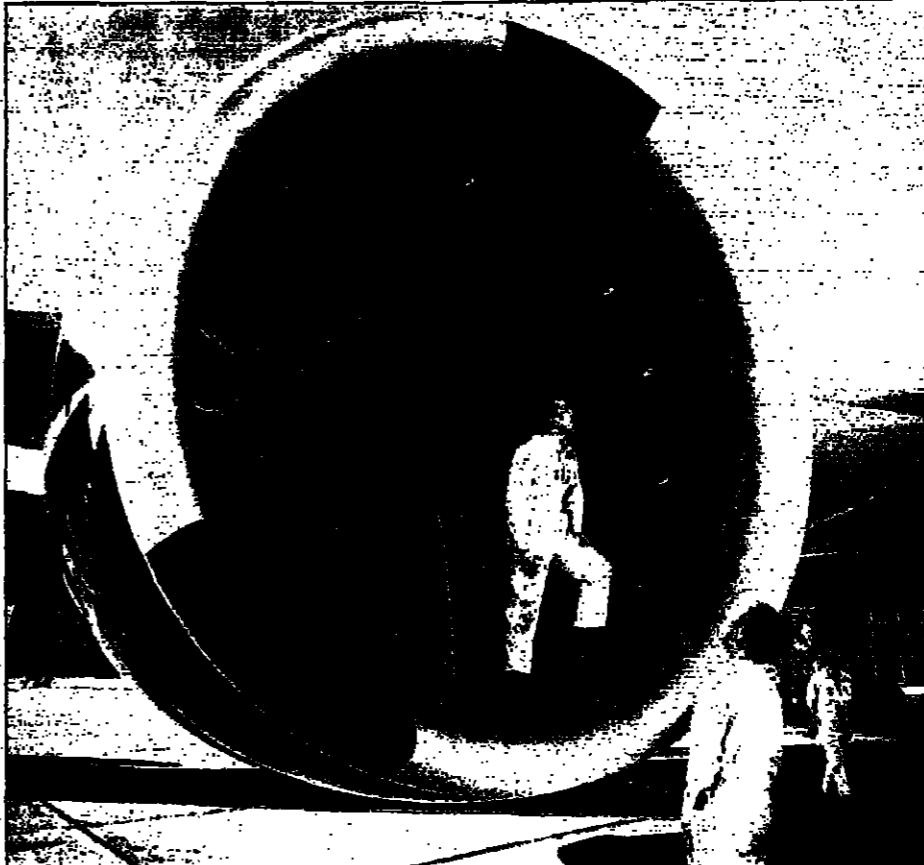
Another related development currently under discussion is the possible introduction of GPS (Global Positioning System) equipment into each

aircraft, enabling them to navigate themselves along the shortest possible route, rather than being directed zigzagging from beacon to beacon by ground controllers. This could result in considerable flying time reductions and cost savings.

As for entirely new aircraft: "When the demand for an 800 or 1,000 plane is sufficient, it will be built," says UK Boeing spokesman Peter Middleton.

"The technology is ready. But it won't be quick. For a start all world airports will have to be modified to accommodate it."

According to Peter Middleton, the obstacles facing a new Concorde-type plane are even greater. "To be economically viable, it needs to seat 300 and be able to cross the Pacific, it has to be much more environmentally friendly than Concorde, particularly in the noise area. It also has to be able to fly at subsonic speeds where necessary without becoming uneconomic. We won't see it before 2010 at the earliest."



The Boeing 777: The aeroplane of the 21st century

Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

## When boredom is the least of your problems

JEREMY ATIYAH

Jet-lagged. If no time to do the sights. International business travellers are forever complaining about their trips and these days you can almost sympathise. In today's global economy, business people are being driven further and further off the beaten track in their pursuit of clients and industrial sites. Quite apart from occasional well-publicised health risks such as outbreaks of the Ebola virus in Zaire or plague in India, a growing concern for business travellers is how to deal with the threat of crime.

Mafia gangs in the former Soviet Union, petty thieves in Latin America, civil war and unrest in many parts of the world: part from the obvious need to exercise greater caution, a simple way for travellers to counter the increased risks is to take precautionary steps before they leave home.

One way is to join the Corporate Travel Assistance scheme offered by Mondial Assistance, a Paris-based organisation. It operates like a kind of international medical AA, rescuing people in emergency situations.

We recently airlifted two businessmen out of Nigeria who had been attacked with machetes," explained Chris Moore, Mondial's UK office.

Of boast of Mondial is that agents are on alert 24 hours a day in every country of the world. "Our operations extend to war zones. We're used by organisations like the BBC," said Moore.

Whether or not you find insurance cover to deal with the cost of such a rescue, or whether you pay yourself, is of course another matter. Common theft is covered by standard travel insurance policies, but problems arising from war and political commotion are not (with the exception of hi-jacking, though most policies these days pay out per day of captivity – kidnapping by criminal gangs do not count). If you are a high-profile individual or VIP, this is such a thing as ransom money. But this is a discreet area. For understandable reasons, publicising the fact you are covered, voids your policy.

An interesting new idea coming from the insurance market is that of offering detailed travel advice in association with policies. A company called WorldCover Direct allows an individual to sign up for an entire year's cover, with virtually unlimited travel, for a mere £70.

As well as being a reasonable insurance policy, this cover includes access to 24-hour help lines to provide advice on anything from tax loopholes in the State of Illinois, to what to wear in the Rome Savoy. Compendious crib-sheets giving up-to-date information on any given destination can be faxed through at remarkably little notice.

The high risk spot on the business traveller's itinerary today is Moscow. I have taken the following safety advice from WorldCover Direct: "Put everything into a money belt or neck pouch underneath a layer of clothing. Make copies of numbers for passport, visa and credit cards and keep them in a separate place." This is then followed by reams of specific advice on how to get visas, how to buy train tickets, how to bribe people and how to avoid offending mafia syndicates.

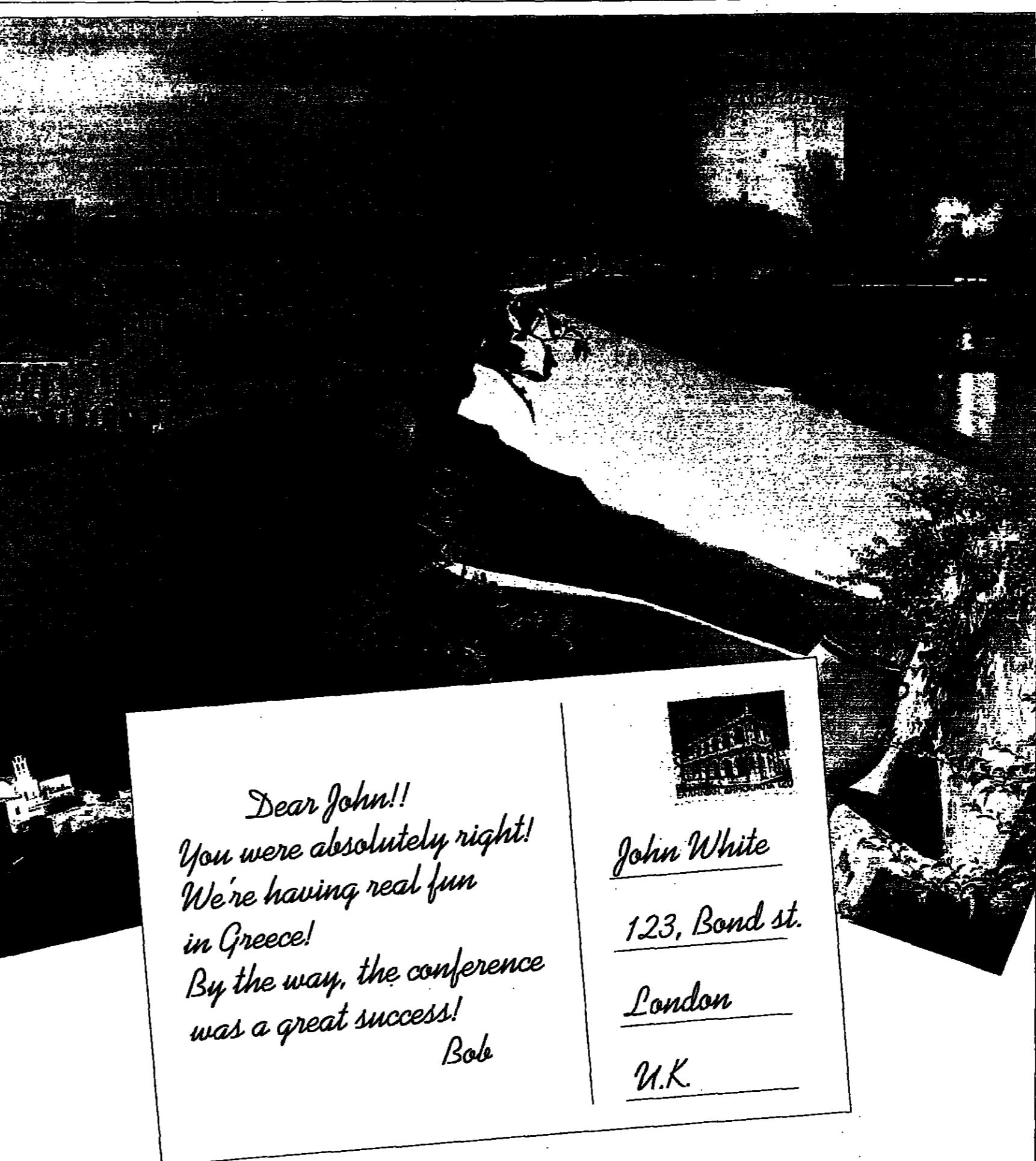
A vital question is how to dress. One western businessman in Moscow was attacked in broad daylight – for his expensive clothes. He was left stripped naked in a subway in the centre of the city. The lesson from this dress down. Most foreign companies in Moscow insist that foreign employees drive dilapidated cars as well. Expensive equipment such as lap top computers should be carried in groovy canvas bags of the type Russians might use to carry cabbages.

And be careful in your dealings with police. Do not assume they are there to help you. Carry an ID at all times, to minimise the risk of being hauled off or fined by bored officials with nothing better to do. It's all there. Business travel may be getting more dangerous but there is less excuse than ever for travelling unprepared.

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SENSE INTEGRATED

## BUSINESS TRAVEL

# Computers: all the right connections

STEPHEN PRITCHARD

For all its benefits, travel can be expensive, time-consuming and tiring. Large amounts of valuable time can be absorbed waiting for connections, and, almost inevitably, by delays.

Even within the UK, a six or seven hour round trip is not uncommon for an hour-long meeting. Overseas travel is proportionally more costly. Businesses are bound to look eagerly at ways to reduce the need for travel. Technology, and especially modern communications, can deliver a number of alternatives.

New technologies provide a mid-way between the simple phone call and the physical meeting. Perhaps the best-known of the new communications networks is the Internet. This global network of networks allows almost instantaneous transfer of information between computers, wherever they are in the world.

A growing number of businesses are now using electronic mail. It is quick and efficient. It is less interactive than the phone, but more immediate and less formal than the letter. Also,

**Hardware will provide an alternative to long trips for short meetings**

computer files, such as spreadsheets or even video, can be sent over the Net as an attachment to an email message.

But electronic mail can't really be seen as a substitute for a meeting; it cannot provide a simultaneous exchange of information. To achieve this, users need to dial the remote computer, whether at a branch office or at a client's site.

This opens up the possibilities for 'electronic conferencing'. This is the real-time exchange of video or computer files, between remote PCs.

The most basic electronic conferencing can be set up using no more than a spare phone line and a modem. Software utilities can be bought that allow both parties, for example, to annotate a word-processor document using the phone link. This brings an added dimension to a phone call. Then there is the more collaborative, but also more expensive, full-blown video-conferencing. This requires a high speed link, such as ISDN.

ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) is a high-speed digital phone line. It can be provided at "basic rate" by BT, where users, for a connection charge of £400, receive two ISDN-2 channels. Each of these can transmit data at speeds of 64,000 bauds - more than twice as fast as the fastest modem connection. For very demanding applications, the two channels can be bonded to the desk for data applications. ISDN can be used for ordinary voice calls when they are not needed for data.

The speeds offered by

ISDN open up the possibility of a fully-interactive, two-way electronic conference. This is sometimes called video-conferencing, but this is a misnomer: video is only one of the facilities that make this such a powerful communications tool.

Electronic conferencing can be added to most standard PCs as a combination of additional hardware and software. Typically, a user will need a camera, and a processor board to compress the video information for transmission over the phone line. Some of these add-on boards include an ISDN connection for the computer too.

Conferencing kits can be bought from companies such as BT, IBM or Intel. Complete hardware solutions, comprising a PC as well as all the additional hardware, are also available.

Olivetti, for example, markets its Personal Communications Computer specifically for this purpose.

However, the trend within the PC industry is to build video-conferencing directly into computers. Apple Computer, for example, supplies its more powerful

Macintosh machines with Quick Time Conferencing, as part of the operating system. Anyone with a video camera and a suitable ISDN carrier can operate it.

Apple has tested its system connected to IBM computers, using that company's Person to Person software.

For applications where a computer might not be appropriate, it is possible to buy a stand-alone video-conferencing terminal. BT sells several models, and they have the advantage of requiring little technical knowledge to set up and use.

However, a terminal lacks the ability to share computer files and work on them. Most computer-based products offer a whiteboard facility, that allows substitute for a face-to-face meeting.

Producers of video-conferencing hardware think it is unlikely that their products will replace business travel.

What it will do is provide a realistic alternative to long trips for short meetings, and also a powerful way for staff to prepare for a meeting or conference in advance, so they can make more productive use of their time when they are there.

Business trips might even become more social. Video links cannot replace the need to build working relationships and personal contacts on a face-to-face basis. But putting the facilities for electronic conferencing on the desks of key employees should reduce the time they spend travelling - and, because it is accessible, improve communications as well. In the next few years, an executive without a video-link at the desk might seem as odd as one without a direct phone line would now.

So the canny business trav-

LEE RODWELL

Since American Airlines launched AAdvantage in May 1981, frequent flyer pro-

grammes, aimed primarily at the business traveller, have winged their way around the world. Now every major airline has its own scheme whereby passengers can clock up miles to earn free flights, cut-price holidays, hotel accommodation or other, increasingly diverse, awards.

Tony Clarke is managing director of London-based International Customer Loyalty Programmes, which has devised several FFPs. He says: "These schemes have now become a fundamental part of airline marketing strategies. The mileage programmes, which exploit greed instincts, provide opportunities to track and identify customers. Learn about their preferences and build up complete profiles of them."

FFPs, it seems, are here to stay. But how can the traveller make the most of them? According to Mr Clarke, people who collect miles belong, on average, to four different schemes. He says: "The number one criteria for business travel is schedule. But there is no doubt 'miles' come into play up an enormous number of miles."

Air Miles members, for

example, can now earn extra miles by shopping at Wine Rack, Laura Ashley, Do It All and the House of Fraser. With a Shell smart card they get a mile for every £6 spent on petrol, with a NatWest Access or Visa card they can earn a mile for every £20 spent. They can even get miles by going to a performance by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Most airlines have partner-ship deals with hotel groups and car hire firms. This gives the business traveller an ideal opportunity for maximising the opportunities to gain miles.

This month's *Executive Travel* magazine has worked out that a British Airways Executive Club member who uses a NatWest credit card at a BA Travel Shop to book a £364 BA business flight to Europe, plus one day's car rental with Hertz and two nights at a Hilton hotel, would earn 572 Air Miles - more than enough for a free ticket to Paris.

But will this hypothetical traveller actually use his miles for a free flight? British Airways say that each week, more than 10,000 Air Miles collectors fly to destinations around the world, free of charge.

On the other hand, industry estimates suggest that only 28 per cent of all accrued mileage points are redeemed, leaving 1.4 trillion unused miles worldwide. Yet miles do not necessarily last for ever. Some airlines impose time limits: unused miles in Virgin Atlantic's Freeway scheme expire after three years, for instance.

Mr Clarke says some schemes have higher redemption levels than others. "With the more successful schemes you find about ten per cent of cabin seats taken up with people redeeming rewards on their miles."

"There would be problems if everyone who had enough miles claimed free flights. The airlines have to get a balance between not diluting their full fare sales and not frustrating customers who have reached redemption levels but can't get the seats on the flights they want."

Free flights are now just one of the ways people can cash in their miles. Freeway members can wind down with a day at a health club (30,000 miles), go skydiving (40,000 miles) or get away on a golfing weekend (75,000 miles). Holiday offers range from a seven-day tour of Egypt (150,000 miles) to a week spent in luxury on Richard Branson's Necker Island hideaway (1 million miles).

Air Miles deals include two free tickets to the cinema (100 miles), an aromatherapy massage (500 miles), white water rafting (1,000 miles), a motor racing trial (2,500 miles) or high speed powerboating for two (3,500 miles). One thing is clear: when you collect miles, the sky is no longer the limit.

# Travellers get a taste for the stars

Sue Wheat reports on developments in the kitchen which airlines are hoping will lure passengers on to their planes



Culinary concepts: British Airways' kitchen at Heathrow, where they prepare 40,000 meals a day. Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

terrible food. As the travel agent who sold me an Aeroflot ticket to Jakarta a few years ago said: "Well, you'll get there, but don't expect to enjoy it. I'd advise you take sandwiches." I did - in fact, two Tupperware boxes full - and it was the best travel advice I've ever had. But even Aeroflot are making efforts to improve their food after years of criticism. A new, part-American-owned catering consortium in Moscow now produces "truly international meals," explained an Aeroflot

spokesperson. "The standard of the food produced is now extremely high."

Preparing food for a plane-load of people that recognises edible, and hot, after going through preparation, flight delays, storing, dehydration, and then re-heating, is certainly a tall order. China Air Lines point out that passengers of all nationalities often opt for Oriental dishes which tend themselves better to airline conditions than meat and two veg which have a tendency to

dehydrate and lose their flavour. But if you really want to guarantee your chances of good food, consider one regular economy class traveller, the trick on any airline is to always order a "special meal" (many airlines now offer an extensive range). "They're all freshly prepared - and you get served first and aren't caught in the post-prandial bathroom rush."

But do people really choose an airline on its food? Nigel Murray of Executive Travel Service points out that "serious travellers are interested primarily in the timing of the flight, food is less important." True, say British Airways, but providing good food is part of providing a memorable in-flight experience. BA are therefore introducing a completely new "Cloud Nine" first class service from December, which includes an à la carte restaurant in the sky where flexibility is the name of the game. Meals range from 7-course extravaganzas to bistro-style pasta bars and good old-fashioned puddings, and

passengers can choose to whenever they like.

Those on the "Gooding" service will even be able to on a 6ft bin bed in BA pyjamas under a duvet, watching a film on their bedside video screen while tucked into a jar of biscuits. First and Club class passengers will also be able to "raid the larder" and nibble away on snacks all night long. It's an adult version of Hot Alone self-indulgence, 350 feet up.

But you don't have to long-haul to get the tucked-by-Grandma treatment with BA. "Our short night flight passengers are given cookies and a large tartan mug full of hot chocolate before snuggling under their matching tartan blanket. Just before landing they will be woken gently with hot coffee, warmed bread pastries and energiser drinks," say the World's Favours.

A scene eerily reminiscent of the film *Airport* in which stewardesses sing and nuns sing lullabies to sickly passengers comes to mind. BA's encouragement of passengers "to treat the cabin like their own home" also seems a mighty indulgence although watching groups of executives all in matching pyjamas sneaking into the galleys in the early hours of the morning over who gets the last Hobnob, should provide great in-flight entertainment.

Andrew Weals, of BZ Investment Management, an ex-regular business traveller, sceptical of the rash of new in-flight services: "I don't see the point in paying so much extra just to have a constant biscuit supply and matching napkins. All you want is peace and quiet and your seat to go back as far as possible so you can sleep. No amount of gorgeous food makes up for that. But then again, wouldn't refuse it either."

## Loyalty brings some sky-high bonuses

LEE RODWELL

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grammes, aimed primarily at the business traveller, have winged their way around the world. Now every major airline has its own scheme whereby passengers can clock up miles to earn free flights, cut-price holidays, hotel accommodation or other, increasingly diverse, awards.

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example, can now earn extra miles by shopping at Wine Rack, Laura Ashley, Do It All and the House of Fraser. With a Shell smart card they get a mile for every £6 spent on petrol, with a NatWest Access or Visa card they can earn a mile for every £20 spent. They can even get miles by going to a performance by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Most airlines have partner-ship deals with hotel groups and car hire firms. This gives the business traveller an ideal opportunity for maximising the opportunities to gain miles.

This month's *Executive Travel* magazine has worked out that a British Airways Executive Club member who uses a NatWest credit card at a BA Travel Shop to book a £364 BA business flight to Europe, plus one day's car rental with Hertz and two nights at a Hilton hotel, would earn 572 Air Miles - more than enough for a free ticket to Paris.

But will this hypothetical traveller actually use his miles for a free flight? British Airways say that each week, more than 10,000 Air Miles collectors fly to destinations around the world, free of charge.

On the other hand, industry estimates suggest that only 28 per cent of all accrued mileage points are redeemed, leaving 1.4 trillion unused miles worldwide. Yet miles do not necessarily last for ever. Some airlines impose time limits: unused miles in Virgin Atlantic's Freeway scheme expire after three years, for instance.

Mr Clarke says some schemes have higher redemption levels than others. "With the more successful schemes you find about ten per cent of cabin seats taken up with people redeeming rewards on their miles."

"There would be problems if everyone who had enough miles claimed free flights. The airlines have to get a balance between not diluting their full fare sales and not frustrating customers who have reached redemption levels but can't get the seats on the flights they want."

Free flights are now just one of the ways people can cash in their miles. Freeway members can wind down with a day at a health club (30,000 miles), go skydiving (40,000 miles) or get away on a golfing weekend (75,000 miles). Holiday offers range from a seven-day tour of Egypt (150,000 miles) to a week spent in luxury on Richard Branson's Necker Island hideaway (1 million miles).

Air Miles deals include two free tickets to the cinema (100 miles), an aromatherapy massage (500 miles), white water rafting (1,000 miles), a motor racing trial (2,500 miles) or high speed powerboating for two (3,500 miles). One thing is clear: when you collect miles, the sky is no longer the limit.

## Baiting the customer with sweeter incentives

SIMON CALDER

Travel Editor

At Sheremetyevo airport in Moscow last Friday, I saw a new Ilyushin 96 gleaming in freshly painted Aeroflot colours. The latest Russian aircraft was parked by the terminal and looked ready for passengers. One thing limited its usefulness: none of the four engines was attached.

In the West, thankfully, such details are taken for granted. And if you buy a business-class ticket, you can take it for granted too that frills such as separate check-in and airport-to-airport champagne (should you want it) are included in the premium price of a ticket. The battleground for the business traveller has moved to a higher plane.

Airlines are focusing much more on the overall journey rather than just the hop Alpha to Bravo. So besides more legroom and fancier inflight entertainment systems, attention is shifting to added-value extras.

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Carrying only hand-luggage may do - even at Moscow.

"Fast track" clearance through security and immigration is another bonus, particularly at airports like Gatwick and Manchester with a high proportion of holiday traffic. Executive lounges are being increasingly taken for granted, and now the battle is on to enhance the airline's performance by boosting its productivity. At Heathrow, for example, one section of United's vast Red Carpet Club is given over to individual work stations. Right up until last call, business travellers can hammer away at their laptop computers.

Today's business traveller is supposed to relish the idea of going straight to a full day's work, and arrival lounges such as those provided by BA and American Airlines at Heathrow allow you to freshen up for action. A fine idea - assuming that you have enjoyed a sound night's sleep.

Your chances of slumber depend on how much space you have. Long-haul passengers are getting used to vital statistics: not only seat pitch, the measure of space from the front of one seat to the front of the next, but also the angle of recline. Air France

has actually named its no-business-class "Expo 177" indicate that the seat recline 127 degrees matches the ideal human posture with reclining

While space increases, on thing which may be reduced: flexibility. In two ways, first marketing moves aimed at enticing the business traveller through lower fares almost always have restriction attached.

Second, the boom in busines travel means that some routes are becoming scarce. The idea that paying a premium fare you are guaranteed a seat is no longer rooted in reality, though British Airways' advertising finds a seat for Goliath passengers is an off that could be worth it in platinum.

Some company accountants are getting worried at the spread of perks which bid the way of business trailers. Whether you get a caviar toy or hard cash, the "free gift" costs money that won't be worth through to executives. There could be a reach to what some see as glamour. But however much you pay for your flight, you have the right to expect your plane to be equipped with the right number of engines.

*Cure your financial director's fears of flying.*

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# INDEPENDENT

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## The £2bn question

**T**he European Union is in a financial mess. Yesterday, the EU's spending watchdog, the grandly titled European Court of Auditors, made that much plain. Eurocrats don't know where 4 per cent of their budget - £2bn - has gone. Their best guess is that it has disappeared in a mix of fraud, waste, mismanagement and bad housekeeping.

This is an appalling admission. At a time when most countries are struggling to hold down public spending to meet the demands of the Maastricht treaty, such profligacy damages the EU's reputation and ismann to the union's many ill-wishers.

So who is to blame? Has Brussels, as the Europhobes would have us believe, become a place where fraudsters thrive unchecked and where the roads are choked with criminals driving removal vans stuffed with stolen EU office furniture?

Not quite. Yesterday's report shows that there is a serious failure to monitor spending. The fact that much EU spending takes the form of subsidies also makes it particularly vulnerable to fraud and waste. The Common Agricultural Policy, which takes about half of the EU's £56bn budget, is, as is well known, widely abused.

Likewise, the EU's other big programme, grants to poor areas and countries, is tailor-made for waste. Many projects are ill-drafted, badly administered and incompletely implemented. They discredit a central EU policy: the effort to reduce the gap between rich and poor.

But responsibility for most of the failure lies at a national level. The problem is that the 15 member countries, which administer 80 per cent of the budget, don't bother too much about what hap-

pens to it. It's someone else's money as far as they are concerned. They don't seek out evidence of fraud, partly because they may find themselves obliged to repay the sums lost even if these amounts cannot be recovered from the fraudsters. In many countries it is not even a criminal offence to defraud the EU budget. And there is no justification in the supposedly fraud-free richer northern countries pointing an accusing finger at their southern counterparts. Slapdash accounting and dodgy dealing is identified throughout the community by yesterday's report.

The situation is beginning to improve. The EU has set up a tougher anti-fraud unit. There is a telephone number for informers. The very fact of yesterday's report - and the attention it has received - shows that abuse is taken more seriously than in the past. Monitoring should become more rigorous in the future as more countries join Britain as a net contributor to the EU and so worry more about their own money going down the drain.

But the continuing inadequacies of the EU situation are thrown into relief when compared with events this week in the United States. There, the government has been, however briefly, shut down in the battle over spending restrictions. Such drastic action is not to be recommended, but it shows how much tougher controls are in the US than in the EU, where money will continue to flow in (and out) regardless even of yesterday's damning report.

It is time that member states got serious about the problem. But until they stamp out malpractice on their own doorsteps, they are wasting their breath railing against bloated Brussels.

## Parenting and pornography

**T**his country seems to specialise in dia-logues of the deaf. Either you believe that class sizes determine all that happens in schools - or you side with Gillian Shephard asserting that they have no impact at all. The question of violence and children was last week reduced to the trivial and irrelevant question of whether or not parents should smack. And now we have yet another "transmit only, no receive" debate being conducted between the pro- and anti-censorship lobbies over satellite porn and violent videos.

In one corner the moralists bemoan the "tide of filth" waiting to overwhelm the country if Swedish "TV Erotica", available to subscribers with smart-card technology, is allowed to reach into British households. For this lobby any explicit sexuality is to be banned from the screens, without differentiating between material depicting violence or degradation and that showing "normal" sex. Like rabies, sex is seen as a Continental affliction waiting its chance to cross the Channel. For the time being this lobby has prevailed.

Facing them - in the libertarian corner - is the "anything goes" brigade. This group argues that there is no link whatsoever between what is watched and subsequent behaviour - despite a multi-million pound advertising industry devoted to the opposite proposition. So there is simply no problem. Furthermore, they say, the technology is already available to prevent minors viewing unsuitable material - ignoring the evidence that in too many households parental negligence (or even complicity) allows very young children to see disturbing programmes.

**ANOTHER VIEW** Richard Lacey

## Mad cows and ministries

**M**ore than five years ago I demanded that the control of BSE and its frightening potential to decimate the human population was through slaughter of all infected cattle herds. This proposal was based on the inability to identify which animals were infected but not yet ill. The steep rise in the incidence of the disease and the dependence of the human population on dairy products and the remains of the old cow processed into foods as diverse as burgers, soups, stocks, sausages and also gelatine, used widely in medicine and many sweets.

Action was not taken then because it was too expensive. By 1993, the cost was estimated at £300m by the editor of *Nature*. Now we apparently cannot afford to take action, and yet we cannot afford not to. Surely the cost of cleaning up our cattle should take priority over tax cuts.

Instead, the ministries have orchestrated a campaign of deception, misinformation and manipulation of cowardly scientists.

The first lie was the claim that BSE was caused by sheep scrapie, a claim made to reassure the public because it is accepted that humans are barely vulnerable to scrapie, so we would also be immune to BSE. But scrapie did not cause BSE. Rather, BSE is a cattle disease in its own right, and now established as a cause of sporadic Creutz-

feld-Jakob disease (CJD) in humans. Then, just as a precaution, various risky organs were removed from cattle at slaughter. These were the organs of little commercial value and did not include, for example, liver, bones or nerves.

But is it not insane deliberately to manipulate infected organs? Surely not if you believe the Ministry of Agriculture.

In its experiments, tiny amounts of various organs have been injected into a breed of mouse hardly vulnerable to BSE. Conveniently, some may think, the only infectivity was found in the brain.

In 1990, the ministry might have hoped its failure to act would not have been rumoured until well into the next century. But infected farmers with BSE herds and teenagers, in addition to many of our domestic cats and zoo animals, all attest to the exceptional infectivity of BSE and the total failure of the Government to protect the public.

We still live in a class-ridden society.

The top class is the Government and the meat industry. The bottom, or experimental class, is the already infected consumer (ie, most of us) waiting for the terminal dementia, beginning as early as the teens, with no diagnostic test, no vaccine and no treatment.

The writer is professor of clinical microbiology at Leeds University.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Philosophising about the rights of animals

**F**rom Dr Richard D. Ryder  
Sir: May I please defend Peter Singer from the assertion that he "invented animal rights" ("A moral life in this godless world", 13 November).

The concept of animal rights goes back 200 years, to writers such as Thomas Young. Singer avoids the use of this term, adopting instead my concept of specism. Singer differs from the rights tradition in ethics and takes a Utilitarian line, in which the interests of the individual are outweighed by the interests of many.

None of this denies Singer's importance culturally; his book *Animal Liberation* (inspired by the modern revival in this country) was an important trigger for the American revival of interest in animal protection which followed from 1975 onwards. Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD D. RYDER  
Haytor, Devon  
13 November

**F**rom Mr Dave Godin  
Sir: As a lifelong opponent of animal abuse, I have always maintained that when the day comes and we are close to making a significant impact on the general consciousness and behaviour patterns, then the movement will be infiltrated by those who seek to destroy it from within. To read Peter Singer's latest philosophical posi-

tion (*Thinkers of the Nineties*, 13 November) inclines me to think that this just might be his role, since his arguments of Preference Utilitarianism are, in effect, precisely those used to justify vivisection and other atrocities against non-human life forms.

I too regret that there is no secular equivalent to the word "sacred", but the moral basis for respecting all life forms is comparatively simple, and has no need of tortuous reasoning to sustain it. Once life is extinguished, it is beyond our power to restore it. Thus, though we have indeed got the ability to destroy it, we can never rationally be argued that we have any such right.

In his book *Animal Liberation*, Singer argued that, under certain circumstances, the use of torture could be justified. Given this, I cannot see how he differs in his arguments from those who support vivisection; or, come to that, from those who would seek to justify the many heart-breaking case histories that Amnesty International publishes. Singer's macho, tough-love stance may well be his form of psychic self-defence, but it cuts no ice with this sentimental softy.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVE GODIN  
Sheffield  
13 November

### Overcrowded jails: the facts

**F**rom Mr Paul Cavardino

Sir: The reason why the country's jails are at bursting point ("Crisis looms as jails run out of space", 14 November) is a harsher climate in the courts, fanned by the Home Secretary's aggressive advocacy of more prison sentences. As a result, the prison population has risen by 3,500 this year alone, and by nearly 12,000 (or 29 per cent) since the end of 1992. On 30 September this year, 13 prisons were more than 30 per cent overcrowded (including three that were more than 50 per cent overcrowded and a further five that were more than 40 per cent overcrowded).

In short, the Prison Service is being put in an impossible position, in which the prospects for rehabilitation are receding while the risk of disturbances mounts. Yet at last month's Conservative Party conference, the Home Secretary proposed new policies, which could add anything up to 30,000 more inmates to the prison population.

Is it any surprise that many prison staff see current penal policy as incomprehensible? If the Prison Service is to have any serious chance of rehabilitating prisoners, we need to return to sanity in criminal justice policy by re-emphasising the need to use prison sparingly.  
Yours faithfully,  
PAUL CAVARDINO  
Chair  
Penal Affairs Consortium  
London, SW9  
14 November

duced following the recent Woodcock report, as well as coping with more prisoners.

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### Better deal for asylum-seekers

**F**rom Ms Teresa Munby

Sir: Your editorial "Nigeria: the price of timidity" (13 November)

is to be welcomed; what price the timidity of the Secretary of State and the Home Office in the treatment of asylum-seekers from Nigeria now?

I, like any lawyer acting for asylum-seekers held in indefinite detention in our prisons and specially designed centres, despair of the attitude of the Home Office to Nigerians. They are held in detention in disproportionate numbers. They have a success rate before the Special Adjudicators in their claims for asylum that makes a nonsense of the grace of God go I".

My husband and I have a daughter aged 19 and a son aged 16, and as I watched the news it dawned on me that neither of them was sat watching this powerful message with us - they were both occupied with other things. I wonder how many other young people were watching the news? Not nearly as many as watch *Neighbours*, *Home and Away*, etc. On the whole, young people do not watch the news as a matter of course; they may be in the room when it is on, but I would guess that very few young people make a point of sitting down to watch the news as many adults do.

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JULY 10 1995

## comment

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# A pinch of soil: the final frontier

Dinosaurs tried size and failed; we tried intelligence and failed. Now let's see what cockroaches can do

You don't know, in the words of the song, what you've got till it's gone. Or rather, in the case of the number of living things in the world, we don't know what we've got while it's still here. A conservative estimate suggests that 3.5 billion years of evolution have left us with 13 to 14 million species of which 1.75 million have been scientifically described. These figures probably flatter our knowledge. In truth, once we take in bacteria, deep-sea organisms and other exotica, we are left with a living world of which we know next to nothing. As the great scientist E O Wilson has pointed out, any pinch of soil in Amazonia will be teeming with life forms utterly unknown to the most conscientious biologist.

The thought is shocking to a generation brought up to believe that space was the final frontier. Suddenly, we discover, the earth beneath our feet is an alien planet. The shock has created a new anxiety. Extinction is after all, for ever. David Attenborough and others have long worried us with the thought that the elephant, the panda or some less attractive frogs might go the way of the dodo. But, especially in the case of the panda, this could be dismissed as sentimentality. We feared for their loss because we liked the look of them. But now extinction means something worse, something more intellectually disturbing. It means the loss of biodiversity and that, in due course, will mean the loss of us.

The Global Biodiversity Assessment just published by the United



BRYAN APPLEYARD  
Environmentalism is one of the most powerful political and social forces of today

Nations Environment Programme says, in effect, that mankind is in imminent danger of committing indirect suicide. It is doing so by an industrial assault on the biodiversity of the planet. We are "eroding biological capital" and we may be "on the verge of a further mass extinction spasm". Biodiversity must be preserved. We need a diverse gene pool to support life and protect it against disease, and it is the only sensibly cautious approach - we simply do not know what all those unknown organisms are doing and in what mysteriously benign ways they might be working.

Such scaramoucheing reports from earnest, global bodies have a bad record. One environmental horror story after another from the late Sixties onwards has been proved wrong or, at least, absurdly premature. According to the most hysterical of these we should, by now, be dead or, at least, devoid of any mineral resources whatsoever. And the activities of Greenpeace - notably over the Brent Spar oil platform - continue to make life easy for the environmental sceptic. If they keep getting their basic science wrong, then what possible authority can they have?

That said, environmentalism remains one of the most powerful new political and social forces in the world today. The sceptic, however rational, cannot compete with what amounts to a global, ethical orthodoxy. Those who are not Green are anti-Green; those who are not saving the planet are destroying it.

The most potent, rational argument for the Green position is pru-

dence. The science of global warming, ozone holes or pollution may not be as solid as the sceptic would wish. But the risks involved are so huge that it makes sense to take certain measures. In the case of biodiversity this argument becomes even more potent. Our ignorance of organic life extends to an even more profound ignorance of how it works. The loss of a bacterium in Amazonia might lead to a plague in Europe. Probably it won't, but a loss of diversity on the scale now being predicted raises the odds.

This sort of awareness is the popular, political expression of an underlying intellectual change that has taken place over the past 40 years. Since the decoding of the structure of the DNA molecule in 1953 and the ensuing explosion in the science of genetics, the sheer power of evolution has

become increasingly apparent. "Deep time" - the millennia that have passed since the chemistry of replication first appeared on earth - has been shown to be a staggeringly effective generator of complexity and variety.

DNA has formed the dominant contemporary sense of the world. It is said to be a carrier of information, and information is now what we understand the world to be. The work of biological time is understood as the loading of an immense computer disk with ever more fabulous and improbable combinations of information.

The pervasiveness of the information paradigm has led to a further intellectual insight - the awareness of the connectedness of life. We are all on the same disk. Evolution means that all living things are related - indeed, spectacularly related. Apart from a few RNA bacteria, every organism uses DNA as a genetic messenger. We are cousins to the bug and the virus. When it comes to the primates, we are virtually brothers and sisters. We differ from the chimpanzee only by a marginal 2 per cent of our genetic material.

This is a far more profound shock than any of the other insights of environmentalism. In fact, it might be said to be a reverse of the environmental shock. The Green movement has been based, above all, on our sense of detached sinfulness towards nature. We are apart from nature and our affluence is nature's enemy. But biology seems to show that, whether we like it or not, we are in nature. However alienated our self-consciousness

may make us feel, our genes will always reunite us to the living world. In some sense we are incapable of behaving unnaturally. Even if our industrial hubris leads to destruction, this can be seen as part of a natural cycle. Dinosaurs tried size and failed; we tried intelligence and failed. Now let's see what cockroaches can do.

These intellectual changes are now surfacing as a popular programme. Much of the persuasive power of the animal rights movement is based on the sense of the genetic proximity of all living things. And the delicacy and complexity of the biosphere has come to seem increasingly poignant and cherishing when set against the crude destructive power of our technology.

Biodiversity finds its correlative in cultural diversity. The Western democracies might want to rein back their planet-transforming ambitions, but will China, will India, will Brazil with its vastly diverse rainforests? Responses to the well-meaning anxiety of the UN report will be as varied as the bacteria in Wilson's pinch of Amazonian soil.

Equally, the scale of these anxieties will generate fanaticism. The posture of Greenpeace is one danger. Another is the attempt to impose simple global solutions on local cultures, suppressing local wisdom in the name of a Western liberal ethic.

The worst conclusion to draw from the new biological awareness is that the planet can only be saved if humanity becomes one homogeneous, global mass. The best conclusion would be that our diversity mirrors nature and is just as astonishingly benign.

# Can Emma win an Oscar?

Here is a quiz question. In which work of fiction does the character of Madame Bovary raise the subject of OJ Simpson?

Give up?

It's a short story by Woody Allen called *The Kugelmass Episode*, in which a middle-aged angst-ridden New York Jew called Kugelmass is transported by magic into Flaubert's novel *Madame Bovary* and has an affair with silly, empty-headed Emma Bovary, who is entranced by his account of America, as in this passage...

*Emma, to be sure, was just as happy as Kugelmass. She had started for excitement, and his tales of Broadway life, of fast cars and Hollywood and TV stars, enthralled the young French beauty.*

*"Tell me again about OJ Simpson," she implored that evening, as she and Kugelmass strolled past Abbé Bourriau's church. "What can I say? The man is great. He sets all kinds of rushing records. Such moves. They can't touch him."*

*"And the Academy Awards?"  
Emma said wistfully. "I'd give anything to win one."*

*Is that post-modernist or what? Well, I wouldn't know, because although I sent off my money for a brochure entitled "Men! Are you afraid to go out in society because you don't know what post-modernism is and think it may come up in conversation? Send for this booklet and all your fears about your manhood will be over!", it still hasn't arrived. But what I do know is that I have read that Woody Allen story at least a dozen times, and it wasn't until I picked the book up the other day and reread the story that I even noticed that OJ Simpson was mentioned in it.*

*How could I so often have picked over the reference to the most famous alleged murderer of our times? Well, easily, I suppose, because on all the previous occasions I had read the story he wasn't an alleged murderer, he was an American football star, and as a non-convert to American football I wasn't likely to have heard of him or to react to the name.*

*(The nearest I ever got to understanding American football was by seeing it as a branch of military studies, re-enacting various fierce battles from American history with all the mud and mess opportunities of real warfare, and this seemed to make a certain sense. But enlightenment didn't really dawn until my son Tom, who has lived in the US, explained to me that American football is actually just a branch of statistics. The games are played merely to allow elderly sports commentators to compare the figures of the current game with the statistics of previous games, and there is no other point involved.*

*"I am sorry to have to say this," says APH, with no trace of sorrow, "but this statement is fantastically erroneous. The greatest of all the dangers to child life in this country is the motor car and nothing else. Ask any village mother which she fears most - measles or motors."*

*Nothing has changed. Except that today the enemy beloved of the press is not measles. It is contaminated Ecstasy. But what is the death rate from adulterated Ecstasy compared with the death rate on the roads? And which gets the more publicity? Come back, APH - we still need you.*



MILES KINGTON

By pure chance, the book I picked up after putting down Woody Allen was a volume of pieces by AP Herbert called *Look Back and Laugh*, and the first one I came to was a fierce attack on the imbecility of Homo sapiens in inventing the motor car and not knowing how to control it. There's a perennial theme for you. APH points out that on 11 November 1929, Armistice Day, the *Times* printed the details of the weekend's road deaths in very small type, and then went on to thunder in a leader that measles had to be dealt with now. "Public money could not be devoted to a better object, for this disease is the greatest of all the dangers to child life in this country."

*(The nearest I ever got to understanding American football was by seeing it as a branch of military studies, re-enacting various fierce battles from American history with all the mud and mess opportunities of real warfare, and this seemed to make a certain sense. But enlightenment didn't really dawn until my son Tom, who has lived in the US, explained to me that American football is actually just a branch of statistics. The games are played merely to allow elderly sports commentators to compare the figures of the current game with the statistics of previous games, and there is no other point involved.*

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John Hume sets out proposals to resolve the impasse over arms and get Northern Ireland talks moving

# It's good to talk, Mr Major

There has been peace on the streets of Northern Ireland now for almost 15 months. The entire atmosphere of our society has been transformed, particularly for the young people who have known nothing else over the last quarter of a century than the tension created by violence and conflict.

Dialogue, and dialogue alone, has brought us to where we are now, to the absence of violence on our streets. Dialogue is also the road to lasting stability, a stability which can only be based on agreement between our divided people. By definition, agreement can only be created by dialogue. The present impasse can therefore be resolved without any side being asked to take unacceptable risks.

When the peace process began with a dialogue between the president of Sinn Fein, Gerry Adams, and myself, the stated objectives were made clear,

Unionists now know their initial suspicions of secret deals are completely unfounded



We all want peace, but ...

never mentioned by either government throughout the talks process before the ceasefires. It reveals a clear misunderstanding of the psychology of our situation. No party to the conflict wants to be seen to surrender, but all know that an agreement must be worked out.

Looking at the practicalities of our situation, most of the major parties in Ireland, north and south, had their origins in the accumulation of guns and the use of force. But where are those guns now? To whom were they surrendered? The arms question must obviously be settled, but the crucial point is that there must be a commitment not to use them and that their employment can no longer be contemplated.

What is generally referred to as nationalist Ireland has made it clear that it is the people of Ireland who are divided, not the territory. A divided people can only be brought together by agreement. Any coercion cannot hope to succeed. Not only does the peace process pose no threat to Unionism, it is the best possible way for the Unionist people to secure their future. Relying on the protection of their identity by a British government they do not trust seems to me a less successful recipe than accepting the challenge of trusting themselves to come to an agreement with the people with whom they share a piece of earth.

No one should have any illusions

about the remit of reporting on whether it has established that a clear commitment exists on the part of the respective political parties to an agreed political settlement, achieved through democratic negotiations, and to the satisfactory resolution of the question of arms.

The two governments should also agree to ask George Mitchell, the former US senator, to head up an international body to ascertain and advise the two governments on the commitment to peaceful and democratic methods of all political parties that will be participating in the round-table negotiations and consequently of their commitment to the removal of all weapons from Irish politics.

The international body should also be asked to ascertain and advise on how the question of arms, now thankfully silenced, can be finally and satisfactorily settled.

George Mitchell should be assisted by two other figures of international standing likely to inspire widespread confidence.

Accordingly, the international body

Dialogue has brought us to where we are now, to the absence of violence on our streets

that such talks would be easy, given the level of prejudice and distrust of the past that still influences us. No doubt such talks would take time. But we have already established that we can agree, while awaiting an eventual political agreement, on working together on our considerable common economic and social interests. Harnessing the enormous international goodwill which exists towards Northern Ireland, we can start building the trust that will help facilitate political agreement.

It would not be sufficient for us to criticise the British government if we do not offer a constructive way out of the impasse. My colleague Seamus Mallon and myself, with the agreement of Sinn Fein, put forward the following proposals to the Prime Minister for consideration by both governments. These proposals set out a parallel process for talks and an agreement.

First, the two governments should agree to launch the preparatory phase for all-party talks in the peace process which will, not later than 30 November

should have the remit of reporting on whether it has established that a clear commitment exists on the part of the respective political parties to an agreed political settlement, achieved through democratic negotiations, and to the satisfactory resolution of the question of arms.

The international body should report to the two governments, which should undertake to consider carefully any recommendations it makes and to give them due weight.

These proposals seem to me to be ordinary common sense. Once again they threaten no one. We are at a historic moment in the history of Ireland when the gun can be taken out of our politics forever, when lasting stability can be created for the first time in our history, and when an agreement can be reached among our divided people.

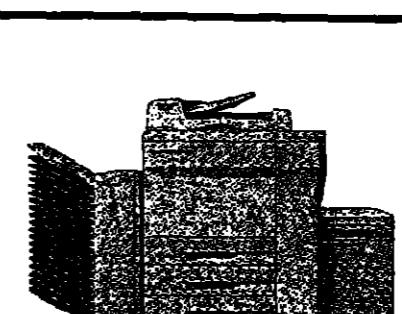
Such an agreement is the only basis for lasting stability and it should therefore be the top priority of everyone, governments above all.

Bringing about a peaceful resolution will be a major political and historical success. It is really asking too much to expect some vision and to ask for a starting date for all-party talks?

I am convinced that such an action would be overwhelmingly endorsed by Parliament and the British people.

John Hume MP is leader of the SDLP.

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## Generation Why



by Tony Reeve and Steve Way

# obituaries/gazette

## Sir James Darling

James Darling was an Englishman who became a great Australian; and he was doubly a Victorian - he was born in the reign of Queen Victoria and he emigrated in January 1930 to the State of Victoria to begin what became a 32-year headmastership of Geelong Grammar School: one that proved of seminal importance to both that school and his adopted country.

In Australia's Bicentennial year, 1988, he was one of 200 men and women formally designated Great Australians from the 200 years since the British settlement of 1788, one of only 22 then living, and the only headmaster among the 200. He has some claim to be called Australia's greatest educator.

He was also a great Victorian in another sense. Like Shaftesbury, like Gladstone, like his own early mentor William Temple, he carried his Christianity into every area of life, whether public or private. It had not, however, come easily. His natural tendency - evident still in his mid-nineties - was that of an active and questing intellect seeking an intelligible faith rather than a natural faith seeking intellectual justification. His greatest service at Geelong lay the education of boys to a sense of responsibility for others and to a sensitive awareness of the needs of the world in which many of them were to play leading parts.

*When his long reign at Geelong was coming to a close, there were those who would have liked him to take orders and perhaps become a bishop. In fact, even before it ended, he was appointed Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Commission (later Corporation); and, though he was somewhat replaced after six years in that office, during which he had striven for high moral and artistic standards and for necessary independence in the face of inexorable commercial interest and governmental interference, there were still many years ahead in which he went on working and inspiring others in a wide range of fields. But in his heart he never really left the school that he had taken by storm in 1930.*

He inherited what can fairly be called a good school, and he left it a great one. His successors Tommy Garnett (former Master of Marlborough), Charles Fisher (a son of Dar-

ling's second headmaster at Repton, like Temple a future Archbishop of Canterbury), and John Lewis (now Head Master at Eton) made important additions - including girls - but on the basis of Darling's heroic work from 1930 to 1961.

James Darling was the son of Augustine Darling, who ran a preparatory school at Tonbridge, and a Scottish mother of strong character and principle, née Jane Nimmo. At Repton, as a scholar, he first knew Temple and in the classroom was inspired by Victor Gollancz's passionate and radical idealism and by the historians L.A. Burd and D.C. Somervell. Geoffrey Fisher's legacy was perhaps a delayed one, in the practicalities of administration.

After war and post-war service as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery in France and occupied Germany in 1918-19, he read (with distinction) the shortened school of Modern History at Oriel College, Oxford, and in 1921 began to teach Merchant Taylors' School, Liverpool, coming again within the orbit of Temple, now Bishop of Manchester, who became a close friend.

In 1924 he moved to Chertsey and the influence of perhaps the most famous headmaster of the day, Frank Fletcher. He became president of the local branch of the Labour Party at Godalming. In 1929 he led a party of English public schoolboys on a tour of New Zealand and Australia, where he was favourably noticed in Melbourne as a compelling speaker and one who could lead young men by a combination of charm, intellect, and idealism.

The Second World War might well have damped Darling's energies and achievements had he not possessed a resourcefulness in finance and administration to match his creative genius. The spirit of the school was probably never better than under the challenges

This tour was the immediate background to the Geelong appointment, but the choice of a young bachelor of pink political persuasion over the heads of safer candidates was courageous and far-sighted.

He took over early in the Depression. Boys were involved in relief work in Geelong, and employment was given to many who would otherwise have been without work in those dark days. Thus through the 1930s some remarkable buildings were achieved, including music and art schools; there were Shakespearean and other drama productions, including pageant-plays involving every boy, such as *The Dynasts* of Thomas Hardy and dramatisations of the fifth book of the *Aeneid* and of the Bible. Music, art, and the manual crafts were similarly brought in from the peripheries of the curriculum, and, when three of his early pupils were awarded Rhodes scholarships of whom in 1938 Michael Thwaites won the Newdigate Prize for Poetry at Oxford and James Mann topped England in the Bar finals, even those sceptical of Darling's Renaissance-style approach had to admit that Geelong Grammar was achieving spectacular results in new fields to match the rowing Blues that had hitherto done most to make famous overseas.

The Second World War might well have damped Darling's energies and achievements had he not possessed a resourcefulness in finance and administration to match his creative genius. The spirit of the school was probably never better than under the challenges



A great educator: Darling on his 93rd birthday, in 1992

Photograph: John Lamb / Melbourne Age

then imposed. A National Service scheme, begun earlier, continued; the boys did domestic and maintenance work and whole buildings, including local woolsheds and a church, were rebuilt by them and the staff after destruction by bushfires.

In the decade after the war the school expanded and by 1953 it was on four sites. In that year Timbertop was founded, probably Darling's most famous innovation (to be attended by the Prince of Wales for most of 1966). It was an outpost of the school in the foothills of the Australian Alps to which the fourth form (later the third) went for a year in which academic work was supplemented by a wide range of pursuits, the more physical of which, such as cross-country runs and long hikes, replaced conventional school sport. The principal aims of Timbertop were to awaken, or reawaken, the spirit of adventure latent in adolescent boys, to develop independence, self-reliance and a sense of community, and to restore something of the ancient harmony between man and nature.

The boy population of the school grew from 370 to 1,139 in his time, and it was more an

empire than a kingdom that Darling handed on to Garnett in August 1961 together with a staff of unusual quality. Those whom Darling had appointed included young men who went on to a wider fame such as Sir William McKie, Organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey, and the radical historians of Australia Russel Ward and Manning Clark. At least 27 of Darling's staff became heads of schools or university colleges in five continents, and his words and policies were widely weighed.

Amongst Darling's alumni may be named Sir John Gorton, Prime Minister of Australia, the painter Russell Drysdale, and the novelist Peter Carey. John Landy, who broke Roger Bannister's mile world record, and was one of nine Geelong Grammarians in the 1956 Olympic Games, and the media magnates Rupert Murdoch, James Fairfax and Kerry Packer.

As a headmaster, Darling never ceased to teach, particularly the sixth form with whom he shared the full range of his interests in literature, politics, history, philosophy, theology, and the affairs of the school and the world. He read constantly,

and, while claiming no great scholarship for himself, he showed in the range and precision of his intellect the essential qualities of the scholar, and he inspired scholarship in others.

His publications include four books: *The Education of the Civilised Man* (1962), a selection of 30 of some 600 speeches and sermons from his Geelong years (he was an eloquent speaker, always candid and convincing); *Timbertop* (1967), in collaboration with the first Timbertop housemaster, E.H. Montgomery; an autobiography, *Ricky Rewarding* (1978); and *Reflections for the Age* (1991), a selection of 70 of the "Saturday Reflections" that for 14 years he had written (and continued until his 95th birthday to write) for the Melbourne Age.

Michael Collins Persse

*James Ralph Darling, schoolmaster: born Tonbridge, Kent 18 June 1899; Headmaster, Geelong Grammar School 1930-61; OBE 1953; CMG 1958; Chairman, Australian Broadcasting Commission 1961-67; Knighted 1968; married 1935 Margaret Campbell (one son, three daughters); died Melbourne, Australia 1 November 1995.*

Slobodan Selenic was one of the greatest literary talents in Serbia of recent times. His novels such as *Prijatelji* ("The Friends") and *Oceni i oci* ("Fathers and Forefathers") and plays such as *Ruzenje naroda* ("Splitting the Nation") and *Knez Pavle* ("Prince Paul") have dominated the last 15 years in

1944 with which he sees unmistakable parallels. The work closes on a battlefield in Croatia at the beginning of 1993 and the recovery of the corpse of a Serbian soldier from the Krajina region. His meaningless death says it all.

Selenic studied drama at the University of Belgrade, including a stint as a postgraduate student at Bristol University in the 1950s. He was later appointed as a lecturer and then professor of his subject, posts which he combined with his literary activities. He was politically active in the Depos organisation supporting the candidature of Milan Panic against the incumbent Slobodan Milosevic towards the end of 1992. Disappointed by the collapse of the opposition movement in Serbia, he refused to wallow in despondency, believing that there would be a better future for his country.



Selenic: honest patriotism

Selenic's general outlook and his easy tolerance made him many enemies amongst nationalists at home and in Croatia. It also made him many friends amongst like-minded people. His company was sought by diplomats and other foreigners arriving in Belgrade trying to understand the present Balkan situation.

It is ironic that his early death from cancer came at the time when his literary reputation is about to spread. The publishing house Harvill is planning the publication of his last novel in English translation for next year. The author both as a human being and as a writer, in himself and in his fictions, offered a ray of hope otherwise absent in these evil times.

David Norris

*Slobodan Selenic, writer: born 7 June 1933; died Belgrade 27 October 1995.*



Geelong Grammar, Melbourne: Darling was the school's headmaster from 1930 to 1961

Photograph: Andrew De La Rue

## Elspeth Davie

One's first impression of Elspeth Davie was of her smallness; the second of her extreme shyness. One of her friends described her as looking like a mouse, neat, nervous, undeniably small. She could also have been mistaken for one of Miss Jean Brodie's young girls, a Morningside lady mingling the intellectual with the tearoom. This would have been an error. In her writing she may well have been the *crème de la crème*, but that phrase implies a certain self-esteem, an awareness of inner strength. Elspeth Davie was implacably modest, the least self-assured of human beings or writers.

She was born in Scotland and, though she spent her earliest days in southern England and lived for a time in Ireland, in Scotland she remained. She went to school and university in Edinburgh, and also attended the Edinburgh College of Art (she taught painting, an ordeal

which must have taxed her voice and her manner). Her early novels describe *Proceedings* (1965) and *Creating a Scene* (1971), and she also published a collection of short stories, *The Spark* (1968).

It was in the form of the short story that Davie found her true presence. It afforded her the ideal outlet for her particular and highly idiosyncratic blend of the ordinary and the extraordinary. Her settings were often mundane, but her characters were usually involved in peculiar, even surreal, events. The short story was the perfect length and, though she wrote other novels, *Climbers* on the *Stair* (1978) and - probably most successful - *Coming to Light* (1989), it was her collections of short stories which displayed her remarkable talent to its best advantage.

*The High Tide Walker* (1976) and *The Night of the Funny Hats* (1980) followed, and in 1978

she won the Katherine Mansfield Prize for Short Stories.

Elspeth Davie had her admirers, who perceived the sharpness and the delicacy of her observations, but in a period of increasing emphasis on the big and the vulgar in fiction she could never come within a million miles of being dubbed a best-seller. Paperback editors shunned her, American publishers thought of her as thoroughly uncommercial (they were no doubt correct); she was unlikely to be sought out by television chat shows, and would have been aghast if such an event had occurred.

She did not seem to mind this state of neglect, indeed she was touchingly grateful for any praise or recognition. She was perhaps old-fashioned in her approach to writing, content to produce quirky, finely honed gems rather than sprawling sagas. Every word told; it was

very often what she left out rather than what she put in that was of note.

Davie's last collection of short stories, *Death of a Doctor* (1992), there is one story which seems to epitomise her qualities and her beliefs. "The Man Who Wanted to Smell Books" starts in this way:

This was the time when every book in the world had been put on the tape, when long ago every catalogue in every library could be read from hundred of flickering screens which quickly settled down into a steady blue and green twilight shade, or at times a purple, violet and pink, the colour of rainbows. The library which had once been a murky, mysterious place was fun at last.

Into this brave new world comes a man who remembers what books looked like, what they smelled like. This character could so easily have been Elspeth Davie herself. Her books would not be suited to kaleidoscopic colours or flickering screens. She was a real writer of

real books, which more people should have smelled and read. Like many other writers, with a strange, elusive but nevertheless strong voice, she remains to be discovered.

Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson

*Elspeth Dryer, writer: born Kilmaronock, Ayrshire 19 March 1918; married George Davie (one daughter); died Edinburgh 14 November 1995.*

Paintings from Central Asia". 1.15pm.

Stade School of Fine Art: Margaret Iversen, "Edward Hopper and the Uncanny", open.

Loughborough University of Technology: Professor Sue Glyptic, "Leisure, Land, Lifestyle and Leisure", 4.30pm.

real books, which more people should have smelled and read. Like many other writers, with a strange, elusive but nevertheless strong voice, she remains to be discovered.

Ernest Gellner came into social anthropology from philosophy via the Berber tribesmen of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco, writes Professor Joan Wallach Scott [refer to the obituary by Professor Chris Haun, 8 November].

He was probably the first philosopher - after the Berber medieval philosopher and historian Ibn Khaldun, whom he greatly admired - to understand what a "segmentary lineage system" is. He applied this model of decentralised politics, drawn from E.E. Evans-Pritchard's classic analysis of the Sudanese Nuer, to North African Muslim tribes. Gellner's study of Berber society *Saints of the Atlas* (1969) combined Evans-Pritchard's insights with Ibn Khaldun's oscillating theory of the rise and decline of centralised governance in such decentralised, egalitarian tribal societies. According to this theory, dynasties are founded by successive waves of desert warriors conquering desolate sedentary farmers and townsmen.

As soon as the wolves settle down to rule, they lose their dynamic vigour, becoming tame citizens unable to resist the next onslaught from the desert.

Although he founded a train of intellectual dynasties in various centres of learning during his life, Gellner never himself succumbed to this fate - perhaps because his astonishing energy, despite his physical disabilities, kept him physically as well as mentally on the move. In *Words and Things* (1959), he subjected the leading concepts of the Oxford linguistic philosopher to exactly the same style of analysis deployed in Evans-Pritchard's other masterpiece, *Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic among the Azande* (1937). Much later, he deployed similar tactics in a merciless assessment of the constructs of psychoanalysis.

*Saints of the Atlas* is the foundation for a host of theories in comparative sociology which

Gellner developed later. Thus, throughout history and in all Muslim societies, Islam could be seen to enshrine two conflicting tendencies: a "scripturalist" style of worship and theology associated with cities and literacy, and a more popular, tolerant, erratic, pluralistic form of belief and practice associated with illiterate tribal life remote from urban civilisation.

Gellner was concerned with anthropology as a storehouse of vital inter-cultural insights into the human condition, providing privileged access to understanding social realities. He had no time for "post-modernist anthropology", which he scornfully called "meta-twaddle".

Not long before Gellner died, I asked him if he had read Malcolm Bradbury's brilliant novel *Dr Criminate*, about an elusive, enigmatic central European philosopher and trickster figure. He said he had and didn't like it: he thought it was about him. Perhaps it was.

## Professor Ernest Gellner

The execution of a man after a substantial and unjustifiable period of delay in the disposal of his appeal was contrary to his rights under the constitution of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Privy Council allowed an appeal by the appellant, Lincoln Guerra, from the decision of the Court of Appeal of Trinidad and Tobago that his execution was contrary to his constitutional rights.

The execution of a man after a substantial and unjustifiable period of delay in the disposal of his appeal was contrary to his rights under the constitution of Trinidad and Tobago.

The warrant for his execution was read to him at 1440 hours on 24 March for execution at 0700 hours on 25 March.

### LAW REPORT

15 November 1995

The appellant filed a constitutional motion on 24 March alleging that his execution would constitute a violation of his rights under the constitution of Trinidad and Tobago.

The appellant relied on *Pratt v Attorney General of Jamaica* [1994] 2 AC 1, where it was held that to execute a man after a prolonged period of delay - five years in Pratt's case - could constitute inhuman punishment contrary to the Constitution of Jamaica. The constitutional motion was dismissed by the Court of Appeal in July 1994 who, having considered the administrative and other difficulties facing the judges of Trinidad and Tobago, decided the delay was within the time limit imposed in *Pratt*.

In May 1995 the appellant was convicted of murder, sentenced to death and placed on death row. His appeal against conviction was heard in October 1993, nearly four and a half years after conviction. The principal cause of the delay was in furnishing the appellant's attorney with the trial judge's notes of evidence. The appeal was dismissed. His petition for leave to appeal to the Privy Council was dismissed on 21 March 1994.

The following issues arose before the Privy Council:

• 1) whether the lapse of four years and ten months had the effect that the execution of the appellant would breach his constitutional rights on the principle established in *Pratt*;

• 2) whether the short notice (17 hours) given to the appellant of his impending execution was in breach of his constitutional rights.

Philip Sapford QC, Nicholas Blake

QC and Tim Owen (Allen & Overy) for the appellant; Godfrey Le Quere QC, Nolan Barrow, Deputy Solicitor General, Trinidad and Tobago and Peter Knox (Charles Russell) for the respondent.

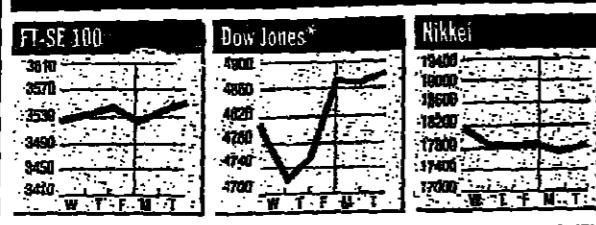
Lord Goff said that the principles stated in *Pratt* were as applicable in Trinidad and Tobago as they were in Jamaica, the only difference being that in Jamaica a long-delayed execution would constitute inhuman punishment under its constitution, whereas in Trinidad and Tobago it would constitute cruel and unusual punishment contrary to his rights under the constitution.

Justice and humanity required that a man under sentence of death should be given reasonable notice of the time of his execution. There was a settled practice in Trinidad and Tobago for the reading of a death warrant on the following Thursday. The effect of the settled practice was that the warrant of execution must be read at a date which gave the condemned man the benefit of at least four clear days between the reading of the death warrant and his execution, and that those four clear days should include a weekend. The giving of less than 17 hours' notice to the appellant of his execution constituted a breach of his constitutional rights.



## MARKET SUMMARY

## STOCK MARKETS



Index	Class	Buy's change	Change %	12 Mth High	12 Mth Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	3547.9	+11.1	+0.3	3592.0	2943.4	4.0
FTSE 250	3905.3	+8.0	+0.2	3951.3	3300.0	3.5
FTSE 350	1764.3	+5.1	+0.3	1785.2	1477.0	3.9
FT Small Cap	1936.5	-0.6	-0.0	1993.1	1678.8	3.4
FT All Share	1741.6	+4.6	+0.3	1762.8	1465.2	3.9
New York *	4886.6	+13.7	+0.3	4886.6	3674.6	2.5
Tokyo	17802.5	13.1	+0.1	19753.0	14485.4	0.8**
Hongkong	9407.4	+22.2	+0.2	10032.9	6867.9	4.1**
Frankfurt	2197.3	+2.0	+0.1	2317.0	1911.0	2.1**
Paris	1838.2	unch	0.0	2017.3	1721.1	3.2**
Milan	9006.0	-6.0	-0.7	10911.0	8912.0	1.8**

\*Year Averages Index & Graph at 1220 hours  
\*\*FT/SMI World Index Yields

## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

FTSE 350 companies (excluding financials trust)			
Rises	Falls	Price (p)	Change (p) % Change
Cobham	432	31	7.7
Rolls-Royce	1725	11.5	7.1
Taylor Woodrow	113	5	4.8
BICC	262	-11	4.4
Hambros	193	8	4.3

INTEREST RATES			
Short sterling*	UK medium gilt	US long bond	
6.05	8.40	7.16	
6.00	8.30	7.00	
5.95	8.20	6.80	
5.90	8.10	6.60	
5.85	8.00	6.40	
5.80	7.90	6.20	

Money Market Rates			
Index	1 Month	1 Year	Bank Rate (%)
UK	5.81	5.69	7.22
US	5.69	5.56	7.53
Japan	0.38	0.38	4.72
Germany	3.94	3.98	7.40

CURRENCIES			
£/\$	£/DM	\$/Y	
1.58	2.29	164.0	
1.56	2.27	163.0	
1.57	2.25	162.0	
1.58	2.23	161.0	
1.59	2.21	160.0	
1.58	2.19	159.0	
1.57	2.17	158.0	

Pound			
Yesterday	Today	Year Ago	Yesterday
5.06	+0.50c	5.026	5.0394
5.07	+0.50c	5.026	5.0393
5.08	+0.50c	5.026	5.0392
5.09	+0.50c	5.026	5.0391
5.10	+0.50c	5.026	5.0390

\*Mid-market rates and 100-day Gilt rates at 1430 hours

## OTHER INDICATORS

Yesterday	Today	Year Ago	Index	Latest	Yr Ago	Next Fig
Oil Brent S 16.58	\$0.05	17.17	RPI	150.6	3.35pc	16 Nov
Gold S 365.85	-52.15	384.48	GDP	106.8	2.4pc	4.1
Gold £ 246.71	-0.77	240.200	Bank Rate	6.75pc	5.25	

Source: FT Information

## IN BRIEF

## Insurers seek to block court action

Some of Britain's biggest insurers, including Prudential, TSB Life and Irish Life, are going to court today in a bid to block legal action against them by victims of the pensions mis-selling scandal. The insurers are applying for a stay of proceedings in a series of cases launched against them by Ringrose Wharton, a Bristol law firm.

## Futures markets plan merger

London's financial futures and commodities exchanges announced a merger plan that will consolidate the City's position as Europe's leading derivatives trading centre. With substantial cost savings, the combined operations of Liffe and the London Commodity Exchange hope to build on a co-operative agreement with the Chicago Board of Trade. The merger deal ends the hopes of the New York Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange of taking over the LCE.

## Housing orders continue to slide

Construction orders rose 2 per cent in the third quarter, but there was no sign of an upturn in housing, according to figures from the Department of Environment. New orders for private houses were 4 per cent lower and those for council houses and housing associations plummeted 24 per cent on the second quarter.

## Rule changes signal jobless rise

The Treasury is internally forecasting a rise in unemployment, according to reports. The increase will result from changes in incapacity benefits which are increasing the numbers claiming unemployment benefit. So far, however, these changes have not had much impact on the unemployment total, according to the Central Statistical Office.

## Northumbrian considers French approach

The board of Northumbrian Water will meet later this week to consider the possibility of a takeover of the company by Lyonnaise des Eaux. Sir Frederick Holiday and Jerome Monod, respectively chairmen of the UK and French groups, yesterday held talks at Lazard Bros, merchant banking advisers to Northumbrian. Analysts believe the French will have to offer at least £1.50 a share to win approval from Northumbrian. Shares in Northumbrian closed at £1.25p, up 10p.

## 'No solution until spring' for Eurotunnel

Eurotunnel's attempts to resolve its desperate financial position are unlikely to be resolved before the spring. The company's bankers are said to be opposed to swapping debt for equity. A company spokesman added that Eurotunnel's advisers had not yet come up with a financial plan to put to the banks, and was unlikely to do so before February or March.

## Profits warning from Geest

Shares in Geest, the banana importer and fresh produce group, lost almost a quarter of their value yesterday after the company issued a profits warning. The shares fell 32p to 107p when the company said this year's profits would be "materially below" last year's £1.28m. The company blamed the problems on an excess supply of bananas caused by changes in European Union import quotas. These have caused prices in October to fall 30 per cent below last year's levels. The company announced a further £7m of provisions on top of the £5m announced in the first half. Analysts are now forecasting a £4m loss.

Investment Column, page 26

## Rolls wins £1.2bn Singapore power deal

## RUSSELL HOTTEN

Boeing has fought off tough competition from Airbus to win one of the largest aircraft contracts ever signed in a deal that will provide spin-off work for several UK firms.

The \$1.27bn (£7.9bn) order

from Singapore Airlines is for 77 Boeing 777-200 passenger planes, which will be powered by Rolls-Royce Trent engines.

Singapore Airlines said it was buying 157 Rolls-Royce engines, including spares, to power 61 of the Boeing aircraft.

John Rose, managing director

of R-R Aerospace, called the order a significant endorsement of the Trent engine. Singapore Airlines is the ninth customer for the Trent and this order takes the order book for engines in the range to £2.5bn.

R-R, whose shares rose 10p to 171p on yesterday's news, now has a one-third market share for the Boeing 777, introduced earlier this year by the US manufacturer. It increases the number of Trent-powered 777s on order to 87.

An analyst at Lehman Brothers

secure the long-term future of R-R, which has never supplied engines to Singapore Airlines before. He believed R-R would make a "margin" profit on the deal as well as benefiting from economies of scale from doubling the production of Trent 800 engines.

But the real benefits can be expected in around seven years, with the spare parts business and the maintenance of the engines and refits.

NatWest Securities analyst Sandy Morris said: "Singapore Airlines' decision was a pleasant surprise following Monday's news of a £100m order from Gulf Air to Trent 800 engines for Airbus A330 aircraft. The two other companies in the race to secure engine orders for 777s are General Electric and United Technologies Corp's Pratt & Whitney."

Smiths Industries, the UK aerospace company, said the aircraft order was worth £500,000 per plane in components supplies. Its shares rose 14p to 596p.

The aircraft will be delivered over the next nine years for use

on Singapore Airlines' thriving Asia-Pacific routes, where the airline passenger market is expected to grow rapidly over the next 10 years.

The planes will preserve the youth of the airline's fleet by replacing some of the Airbus 310s and older generation B747s. SIA has the right to substitute any of the 300-seat 777-200s with other members of the Boeing family. Of interest to the airline is the stretch version, the 777-300.

The aircraft will be delivered over the next nine years for use

## Merrill poaches Morgan directors

JOHN WILLCOCK  
Financial Correspondent

Merrill Lynch has poached two top corporate finance directors from its investment banking rival Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, as part of the US bank's expansion in the UK following its recent acquisition of Smith New Court.

The defection of Morgan's number one and two in corporate finance, Guy Dawson and Justin Dowley, had

Jelly in 150



## COMMENT

The ball is at the feet of European leaders. What markets are looking for is a clear statement of intent from the Madrid summit. Without this, doubts about the credibility of EMU will continue.

## A permissive approach to monetary union

The scenario mapped out by the European Monetary Institute, forerunner of a possible European central bank, for the transition to a single currency will do nothing to dispel the gathering storm-clouds over the project.

Scarcely a day has passed in recent months without the Germans stiffening the conditions they attach to a go-ahead for European Monetary Union. The Finance Minister, Theo Waigel, called last week for swinging fine-tunes which could run into billions of pounds – on countries participating in EMU that subsequently exceed the budget deficit ceiling of 3 per cent of GDP set out in the Maastricht Treaty. The Germans are now saying, in effect, that the real objective for the deficit ratio is something close to balance when economies are growing normally.

As the reshuffled French government busts a gut to bring its bloated deficit, currently above 5 per cent, to the 3 per cent level set out in the Maastricht Treaty, it must seem as if the target is one that is ever receding. But it is not only the French who are in difficulties; Germany itself is set to score an own goal. Last year Germany, along with Luxembourg, was one of only two countries that met all the Maastricht convergence criteria. However, if the Five Wise Men, the German government's council of economic

advisers, are right, Germany will breach the budget deficit ratio this year and will teeter on the edge in 1996. A monetary union consisting of just Luxembourg hardly seems worth all the blood and tears being shed on achieving this grand project.

In this context, the EMI report hardly seems likely to reignite the process. It is notably more cautious than the proselytising Green Paper issued by the European Commission last May. The EC sought to move to full union by promoting a critical mass of activities in the new currency within the banking sector. The EMI, by contrast, contents itself with the statement that the private sector should be free, but not obliged, to use the European currency in the critical phase between the locking of exchange rates at the beginning of 1999 and the introduction of notes and coins in 2002.

This permissive approach almost certainly makes better sense than the idea that the banking sector can be dragged into becoming EMU's storm troops. But it will do nothing to assuage the doubts that the critical-mass approach aimed to dispel. The ball is now at the feet of European leaders. What markets are looking for is a clear statement of political intent at the Madrid summit. Without this, doubts about the credibility of EMU will continue. Nothing

worthwhile was ever simple. While the difficulties of creating a single currency seem more intractable than ever, the game is by no means yet played out.

### Britain – the back door to Europe

It's what John Major means when he talks about Britain becoming the enterprise centre of Europe – £80m of state aid to attract the ultimate Tiger economy screwdriver plant into the Scottish glens? Time was when Taiwan was ridiculed for its economic status. Need a low-cost, unskilled labour force, prepared to do almost anything? Go to Taiwan, home of everything throwaway and plastic.

Now the Taiwanese are bringing their know-how to Britain and not very impressive it is too. Scotland perhaps needs every job it can get, but this surely cannot be the future either north of the border or in Britain more generally.

Chungwha is the name of the company and it plans to manufacture the bog-standard cathode ray tube, the centrepiece of a TV set. The product still sounds impressive enough but in truth this is technology that has not changed fundamentally for years.

Indeed, this type of TV technology is now regarded in Japan as so backward that the country has largely given up manufacturing TV sets, preferring to leave it to low-labour-cost economies like Taiwan. And now apparently Britain, chosen for the usual reasons – relatively cheap, compliant labour force, English-speaking and, most important of all, a back-door way into Europe's largely ring-fenced but wonderfully affluent consumer economies.

All this may sound unduly churlish, for 3,000 jobs are 3,000 jobs and you can be sure that Britain wasn't the only EU member keen to get its hands on the project. None the less, Britain will not properly be able to command the title of enterprise centre for Europe until we see companies, both British and foreign, locating their cutting-edge technology here; and locating here not because of its stepping-stone-to-the-Continent characteristics but because Britain is genuinely seen as the most thriving business economy in Europe. We are still a long way from that.

If John Major's words are going to amount to anything other than hot air, the Budget is going to have to deliver a credible package of "enterprise" measures to back the vision. Fiscal policy alone won't do the trick, however. Unfortunately for Mr Major, there are no quick fixes, no short cuts

in the creation of an enterprise culture. Certainly not the cut-and-run, tax-cutting Budget being planned.

### Private finance in the grass

The big problem with the private finance initiative, as Sir Alastair Morton, former chairman of the Private Finance Panel, said last night, is that a good idea can be talked into the grass. Sir Alastair dished out the blame for this undermining of what he thinks is the brightest financing innovation of the Nineties in pretty equal measure. The City escapes comparatively lightly, with the real culprits branded as Whitehall and industry.

The civil service is chided with inactivity, failing to deliver our projects languishing in the Whitehall pipeline. The problem with industry is no less significant. Britain has failed to develop the Continental-style conglomerate able to construct and operate large-scale public service contracts.

Sir Alastair's critique is the more telling because it is delivered by one who has witnessed the process from the inside. When the Chancellor stands up to pledge an expansion of the PFI in the Budget, he will also have to give with some convincing answers.

## Abbey National ready to join takeover boom

JOHN EISENHAMMER

Financial Editor

Abbey National, the bank, has made takeover approaches to both Alliance & Leicester and Woolwich as part of the revolution taking place in the financial services industry.

BAT, the financial services and tobacco conglomerate, is also actively talking to another building society, believed to be Bristol & West, and Royal Bank of Scotland has held recent discussions with Nationwide.

Insiders said yesterday it was unlikely that any announcement to convert to a public company would be made by A&L or Woolwich this side of Christ-

mas. But A&L's strategic preparations, in particular, are well advanced, as first revealed in the *Independent* in September.

The flurry of approaches has been prompted mainly by the Lloyds/TSB merger plan, which has forced a fundamental rethink among medium-sized players in the financial services sector.

The recent decision by Prudential to establish a deposit-taking service is also believed to have given added impetus to BAT's thinking along similar lines. Market speculation is focused on Bristol & West, the country's ninth-largest building society, as the preferred target for BAT's attentions. Like the P&I, B&W is keen to develop a facility for holding on to some of the funds from maturing a

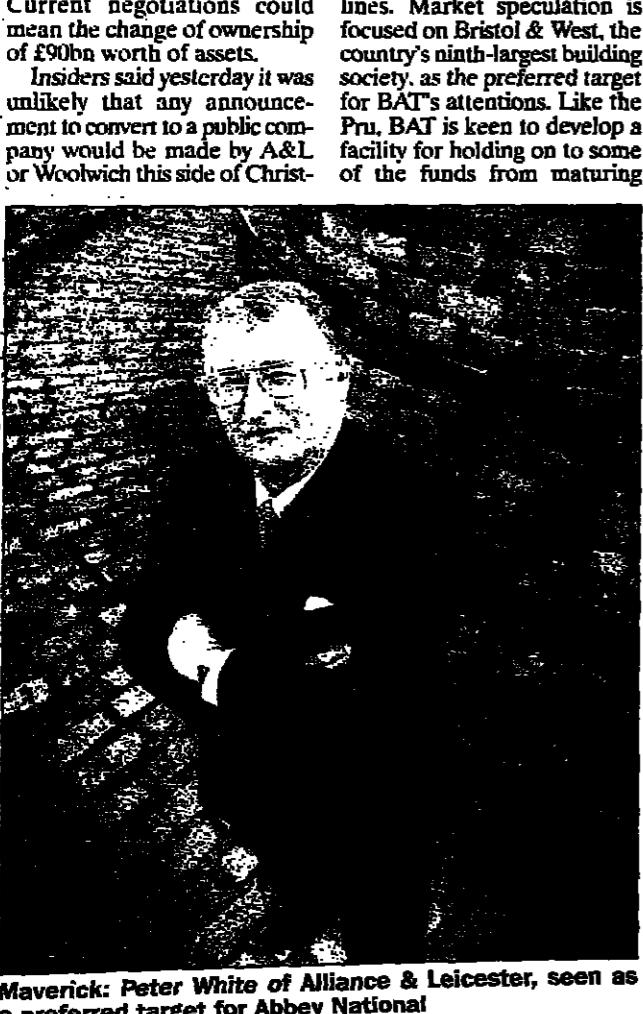
Both A&L and Woolwich, as part of their current strategic deliberations, are examining their options for achieving greater size after they convert.

Abbey's interest in A&L has also been heightened by the potential of Girobank which, with some 1.5 million customers, is by far the largest telephone banking service in the country, some three times larger than First Direct.

With A&L embarked on a branch closure programme, Girobank's large client base gives the building society an attractive total of customers per branch.

Royal Bank of Scotland, which has been particularly unsettled by the size implications of the Lloyds/TSB merger, and the strength that the combined operation would have in Scotland, is keen to make an acquisition that would improve at a stroke its southern presence.

RBS has itself been the subject of bid speculation, which has driven its share price remorselessly upwards in recent months.



Maverick: Peter White of Alliance & Leicester, seen as a preferred target for Abbey National

**Monetary union:** Report outlines obstacles to countdown

## EMU faces delay on currency transition

PAUL WALLACE  
London and IMRE KARACS  
Frankfurt

The European Monetary Institute, forerunner of a possible European Central Bank, has unveiled a scenario for the transition to a single currency which falls well short of what the European Commission said in May was necessary to make the process credible to financial markets.

The report spells out for the first time the precise way in which Europe's central bankers believe the unprecedented changeover from national currencies should take place. Bearing the clear imprint of German influence, it has emerged as a compromise between those attempting to speed up the process and those wishing to delay it.

Malcolm Levitt, who advises Barclays Bank on the European Union, said that it presented December's EU summit in Madrid with no excuse for ducking the question of how monetary union should be introduced.

The monetary institute report came as the Five Wise Men, the

so-called end of the changeover period.

By contrast, the EC's Green Paper earlier this year said that banks should participate as fully as possible in the changeover, creating a critical mass of euro activity in the money and capital markets.

Instead, the Institute says that it will deal through conversion facilities with national currencies. This followed pressure from Germany, anxious to protect small savings banks.

The Institute also insists that a full year is required between the decision by the Council of European leaders on who should participate in EMU and the start of Stage Three. This creates a potential roadblock for the Maastricht timetable, under which Stage Three begins automatically on 1 January 1999.

The Germans insist that the full economic data for 1997 – which won't become available until well into 1998 – be used to appraise whether countries comply with the Maastricht criteria. The Institute is currently investigating whether the first two or three quarters of any one year offer a sufficiently clear picture to get round the roadblock.

## Dale replies to attack by Littlewoods chief

CHRIS BLACKHURST

Barry Dale, former chief executive of Littlewoods and would-be bidder for the football pools, mail order and stores group, has hit back at an attack on him by Leonard van Geest, company chairman and his former boss.

After Mr van Geest wrote to members of the Moores family who own all the ordinary shares in the Liverpool-based group criticising his plans for a

£1.2bn takeover bid, Mr Dale and his advisers have responded in kind. In a letter dated 8 November to the Moores, Dawny Day, Mr Dale's corporate finance advisers, say: "This proposal could result in ordinary and 'C' preferred shareholders receiving cash of over 70 per cent more than the price paid last November on the share repurchase ..."

Mr Dale's proposal values the ordinary shares at 848p each

and 'C' preferred shares at 189p each. "This represents a total of £1.221 for a holding of 1,000 ordinary shares and 1,450 'C' preferred shares, compared with a total of £6,450 which you would have received if you had sold such shares to the company part of the share repurchase," the letter says.

In his letter to the 34 remaining family members who own shares, Mr van Geest – who is not a Moores nor a share-

holder – questioned the commitment of Mr Dale's potential backers, who include Legal & General, Electra, Apax, Prudential, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, Fuji and Chemical Bank. All of them, write Dawny Day, "have confirmed their interest in backing [Mr Dale] to acquire Littlewoods".

Mr van Geest's criticism that

Mr Dale has not put his mon-

ey where his mouth is by mak-

ing a firm bid pending being



## General Accident

### A STRONG PERFORMANCE

#### 9-MONTHS' RESULTS

	9 Months to 30.9.95 Estimate	9 Months to 30.9.94 Estimate
General Premiums	£3,301.9	£3,198.6
Life Premiums	1,131.1	653.6
Life Profits	44.9	37.0
Net Investment Income	375.3	339.7
Underwriting Result	(61.9)	(45.9)
Profit before Taxation	346.6	323.7
Profit attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	238.0	237.1
Earnings per Ordinary Share	52.3p	52.4p

- Pre-tax profit of £346.6m was achieved despite weather related losses in the third quarter of £38m net.
- UK underwriting profit of £109.7m (1994: £158.1m) follows a higher level of large claims and subsidence losses in the third quarter.
- United States and Canada report a further reduction in underwriting losses in the third quarter.
- Good performances in New Zealand and Asia.
- Increased contribution from long-term business and further excellent progress in UK life operations.
- Current solvency margin 70%. Net assets per ordinary share 578p.

Nelson Robertson, Group Chief Executive, commented:

"The strength of our operating performance worldwide, together with a strong balance sheet, an increasing contribution from life business and an encouraging growth in investment earnings, gives me every reason to believe that General Accident can face the future with confidence".

## General Accident plc

General Accident plc, World Headquarters: Pitheavlis, Perth, Scotland PH2 0NH

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Edited by TOM STEVENSON

## Banana glut hits Geest profits

Poor old Geest has slipped on yet another banana skin. Last year it was Hurricane Debbie that wreaked central American harvests. Earlier this year Tropical Storm Luis inflicted similar damage on some of the Caribbean islands on which Geest relies heavily. Now over-supply has resulted in a price slump and forced the company to issue a profits warning.

The £5m restructuring charges in the first half have been lopped up with another £1m. Analysis is now expecting negligible profits for the year to December instead of the anticipated £14m. Some are forecasting a loss.

The shares fell 23 per cent yesterday to 107p, a record low and a fair cry from their 479p peak in 1993. Geest, led by chief executive David Sugden, must feel under pressure after a flurry of profit warnings in the last three years. It must surely long to be rid of its banana interests but refused to comment yesterday about the division's future. The key problem, of course, is that although Geest may be keen to sell, it is far from clear in the current climate who would want to buy.

The nub of the current problems is a change in quotas for bananas imported from the larger, lower-cost Central American plantations. Earlier this year Brussels increased the quotas of these "dollar bananas" from 2.1 to 2.2 million tonnes. This increase in supply was exacerbated by the timing on new licences for bananas from Afro-Caribbean and Pacific producers. The result is that banana prices were 30 per cent down in October compared with last year, with little hope of recovery.

The worry for Geest is that the volatile trading in its banana division is always threatening to wreck attempts to build up a more stable prepared-foods business supplying own-label soups, pasta, speciality breads and sauces to clients such as Marks & Spencer. In spite of the £2m loss at the Necta prepared pineapple subsidiary, the prepared foods division made a £7.5m operating profit last year and is forecasting £10m this year.

For bananas, the outlook is bleak and getting bleaker. From 2002, the European market will be open not just to dollar bananas but to some of the large American banana traders. Geest must find new sources of bananas if it is to compete effectively against the more cheaply produced dollar products. But this uncertainty will only confirm City fears that a large chunk of

Geest profits is subject to matters outside its control. Partner Gordon forecasts a pre-tax loss of £4m after exceptionalities. Though the shares have fallen close to book value, they should still be avoided.

### BOC boosted by gas rise

As a late-cycle company, it is no surprise that the gases group BOC is performing well at this stage of the recovery, but few investors would have expected the outperformance of the past six months. Part of the change in sentiment is due to the ending of the precipitous decline in health-care profits after its mainstay drug, the inhaled anaesthetic Forane, came off patent in 1993. But the best news has been the return to form of the core industrial gases business.

The strong performance of the operation was the main reason for the 13 per cent rise in annual pre-tax profits to a record £40.2m before exceptionalities. The turnaround in prospects for gases began last year and recovery

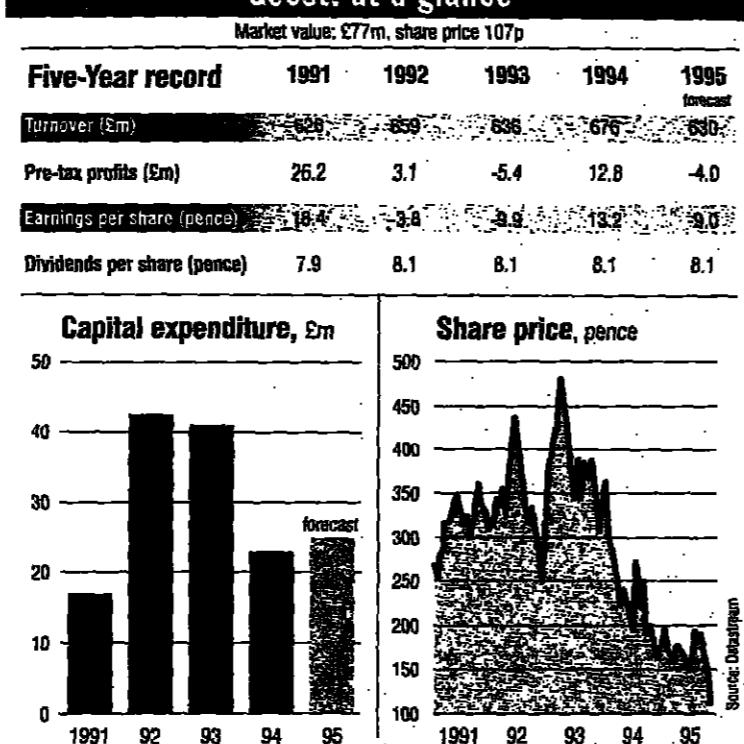
has accelerated during 1995, culminating in the 16 per cent profits growth recorded in the final three months to September. That is at least double the rate of growth recorded by BOC's biggest competitors.

Much of the improvement is due to a three-year restructuring programme begun in 1994. The original £85m cost, which cut headline pre-tax profits to £25.3m in 1994, has been raised to £89.2m, but cost savings last year were a higher-than-expected £43.5m.

However, higher volumes also played their part and there is more to come. The group has been catching up with the increasing demand for lower-cost production of gases such as oxygen at customers' own premises. In the last 12 months alone, BOC has won orders that will increase its worldwide on-site capacity by 50 per cent, including a doubling in the US and the North Pacific.

The 10 to 15-year take-or-pay contracts provide a solid base well into next century. The plants should also enhance margins, notably from increasing supplies of argon, a gas in short supply in the US. Health care may take longer to put right, but a recent marketing deal with Baxter Healthcare of the US should help.

### Geest: at a glance



Group profits of £450m for 1996 would put the shares at 87p, up 12p on a forward price/earnings ratio of 15. With BOC forecasting a 9 per cent rise in the dividend to 27p next year, the shares are fairly rated.

### GA slips into £40m hole

A catalogue of disasters, from Hurricane Marilyn to this summer's West Country bus crash, knocked a £40m hole in General Accident's underwriting profits - taking the shine off third-quarter figures and leaving analysts' expectations high and dry.

The shares tumbled 7p to 629p as a result, leaving them a tenth below their recent high of 686p. At that level they look interesting, with a yield of 6.2 per cent forecast for the year and arguably more stable earnings than other big composite insurers. GA is widely perceived to have the best-quality UK business among its peers, having been more aggressive than the others in turning away business which it believes is not properly priced.

Elsewhere, the US underwriting loss fell by more than a quarter, and GA's future there now looks relatively optimistic. Losses also fell by more than a third in Canada despite a surge of weather-related claims.

GA still seems to be expanding its life insurance business, bucking the trend in a troubled industry. This is likely to remain the case in coming years with efforts being made to expand outside the UK. Life profits at the company have grown strongly in recent years and are now one of its clear strengths.

Composite share prices have been strong this year, reflecting the market's frenzied search for the next takeover or merger - GA has risen from a low of 491p last December. But the market still appears to have largely ignored the potential for better quality earnings which could and should stem from technology-assisted management of the insurance cycle.

If better information does lead to a flattening of the cycle and the sector's heavy losses at the bottom are eliminated, then the way these shares are valued will have to change accordingly and investors will demand less income to compensate for the cyclical risk. On that basis GA looks well-supported.

### Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

## Holidays of a lifetime? Not in Nigeria, thanks

The Nigerian regime is not one to let the execution of nine minority rights activists get in the way of the affairs of state. With world outrage against their repugnant leader, General Abacha, showing no signs of abating, the Nigerian tourist Authority believes the time is ripe to promote the country as a tourist destination.

The tourist authority has turned up at London's Earls Court this week for the World Travel Mart, the annual thrash of the tourism industry. Given that holiday visits to Nigeria are negligible (they do not even register on the Association of British Travel Agents' statistics) any improvement must be a significant one.

Sadly for the Nigerians, this has not come about. No one has shown the remotest interest in their country and the delegation has been twiddling its thumbs. The tourist authority looks all the more isolated because the stands either side are empty. Nigerian Airways and the Nigerian Aviation Authority have not even bothered to turn up.

**Uncomfortable moments** for the clan elders at Scottish Mutual in a lamentable mix-up over hospitality venues.

A coven of the insurers dressed in black ties, was discovered slaking its collective thirst in a Glasgow hotel, having unwittingly gate-crashed the wrong event. On arriving at the hotel the insurers had asked for "the Barings function" and were

Christian Seely, the Englishman who runs Quinta do Noval, the port shipper owned by the French Axa insurance group, has left his spectacular estate in the hills above the River Douro to engage in a bit of market research. The wine merchant and his director of wine-making, Antonio Agrellos, want the City's opinion on next year's blend of Noval LB and have bought some sample blends for tasting.

"We have prepared three slightly different blends and we look forward to gauging the opinions of the greatest port drinkers we know - the Englishmen of the City of London," oozes the vintner. If you feel strongly about this drop then now is your chance to register your preference at Eaton's wine bar in the Minster today, and at Broadgate tomorrow.



Wish you were here: Nigeria's General Abacha will wait in vain for the tourists to arrive  
Photograph: Reuter

he explains to the Confederation of British Industry conference how the Tories have transformed the competitiveness of British industry.

"I work in the £2bn British hairdressing service sector..." squawks the sound system before someone switches it off in a hurry.

"We have been doing very well for the hairdressers too," retorts Mr Lang. A reference perhaps to Michael Portillo?

There may be more to rumours of a merger between Freshfields and a New York law practice after all. Brandon Gough, former chairman of Coopers & Lybrand, has replaced the former defence secretary Sir John Nott on Freshfields' partnership council, responsible for strategy decisions.

There is nothing Mr Gough likes better than a snap merger. You may recall his public disdain of the "King Kong" accountancy mergers - barely weeks before he merged Coopers with Deloittes.

### IN BRIEF

#### Exceptionals push Raine into the red

Raine, the troubled housing, construction and property development group, announced a loss before taxation in the year to June of £102m after a £104m exceptional item, which included the losses on a raft of discontinued activities. The company said its principal UK operations, Hall & Tawse building contracting, Hall & Tawse social housing and Hassall Homes, made a combined operating profit before exceptional of £10.4m. Following their renegotiation, banking facilities have been extended until 1998.

Other changes include the closure of the group's southern housing division, the reduction of the contracting arm from seven to three divisions and a reduction in social housing's overheads to match an expected fall in demand. Raine's shares, which have fallen from 53p in the past year, closed 2p lower at 16p.

#### Great Portland profits up

Great Portland Estates, the property company, accompanied interim profits with a forecast for this year's final dividend of 5.85p to give a full-year total of 8.75p. Pre-tax profits in the half-year to September rose from £21.4m to £23.8m, earnings per share rose 0.1p to 4.9p and the interim payout was pegged at 2.9p. The shares closed 1p lower at 165p.

#### Marshall shrugs off brick decline

Marshalls, the building materials group, shrugged off a 30 per cent decline in profits from its brick making arm to increase profits for the six months to September from £15.9m to £16.4m. The interim dividend is maintained at 1.5p. The concrete and stone division suffered from rising raw material prices but improved profits in the UK and reversed last time's US loss into profits. Engineering profits increased by a fifth.

#### Cobham makes £75m acquisition

Cobham, the aerospace engineering and air services company, is buying Westwind Air Bearings for £75m. The deal will mainly be funded through a one-for-five £58m open offer of Cobham shares at 375p each. The balance is in loan notes and cash. Directors of Westwind have forecast operating profits of not less than £8m for 1995. Cobham expects the purchase will enhance earnings per share from next year.

#### Bank of Ireland beats forecasts

Bank of Ireland's half-year results were at least £110m ahead of analysts' expectations with profits before tax climbing from £167.3m to £191.8m. Howard Kilroy, the bank's governor, said all divisions increased profits. The bank, one of Ireland's two largest financial institutions, has boosted the dividend payment for the six months to September by almost 18 per cent to 5p per share. The payment is covered more than five times by earnings per share, which improved from 22p to 25.7p.

#### T&N cancels scrip alternative

T&N, the automotive engineer still dogged by asbestos claims, has cancelled its scrip dividend alternative following the sharp fall in its share price since August. The shares have tumbled more than a third to 13p since the summer. Last month the compensation for asbestos-related diseases.

#### £2.18m Roxspur rights issue

Roxspur, the specialist engineering group whose shares were suspended last month at 6.5p, is to raise £2.18m through a four-for-nine rights issue at 3p. The company also announced a pre-tax loss of £2.9m for the 13 months to June. There is no dividend.

Ian Orrock, chairman, said actions so far taken to restructure Roxspur into profit and to control costs had resulted in a "turn-around" in the three months to September which had been achieved against a background of uncertain and severe working capital pressure.

Roxspur fell into difficulties following its ambitious acquisition in April of Wills, a pumps and valves company four times its size and in a much worse financial state than expected. Roxspur offered shares at 17p each.

COMPANY RESULTS			
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS
BOC Group (F)	3.75m (3.48m)	402m (253m)	51.97p (23.82p)
BWG Charles Sidney (F)	186m (72.2m)	3.65m (2.07m)	7.3p (3.3p)
Ferrier (F)	225m (201m)	13.1m (8.2m)	10.21p (4.24p)
General Accident (US)	4.45m (3.85m)	347m (324m)	52.3p (52.4p)
Great Portland Estates (F)	47.8m (45.6m)	23.8m (21.4m)	5.6p (5p)
Jardine Matheson (J)	45.0m (33.4m)	7.27m (4.58m)	10.2p (8.8p)
MAID (US)	9.5m (8.16m)	-2.98m (0.71m)	-3.34p (0.82p)
Marshalls (J)	136m (125m)	16.4m (15.9m)	7.73p (7.29p)
Raine (F)	467m (456m)	-0.10m (0.01m)	-49.59p (4.86p)
Sedgwick (US)	652m (694m)	7.65m (7.7m)	10.2p (9.1p)

(F) - Final (J) - Interim (M) - Nine months

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section two

### BT deal lifts data provider

MATHEW HORSMAN

On Demand Information, the Leeds-based provider of electronic data, has signed a deal with BT worth at least £1.85m, the company announced yesterday. Shares raced ahead by 30 per cent to 104p on the news.

George Poulter, chairman and chief executive, saw his personal stake rise to £22.8m from £1.7m in a day's trading.

Under the agreement, BT has the right to sell two of ODI's multimedia services to business customers, generating an estimated £20m in revenues for ODI over the four years of the contract. ODI had revenues in the year to January 1995 of £5.5m, and losses of £1.3m. It launched on the unlisted market in 1993 at 78p.

BT will distribute the ODI construction information service, which provides architects, buyers and others with electronic data, and the personnel information service, targeted at personnel managers and covering information on training courses and grants.

BT has expanded its on-line business services in recent months, developing a team of 4,000 corporate sales people. It is aiming to encourage greater use of its ISDN digital network, which allows users to access a range of data, video and audio information.

ODI will continue to market its range of products separately, but the two companies will consider further joint distribution agreements covering other ODI services. BT also agreed to set up ODI terminals at 100 BT offices around the country.

Growing competition in world insurance markets and a softening of rates led Sedgwick Group, one of the world's largest insurance brokers, to announce a 3 per cent drop in profits yesterday, to £7.6m for the first nine months of this year.

Among the areas where

Sedgwick was most heavily affected were the London markets and Australia, where a move by top companies to

wards self-insurance affected revenue.

Sedgwick's dip in profits followed a slight decline in brokerage and fees income, down from £663m in the first three quarters of 1994 to £655m for the same period this year.

JPI 10.12.95

# market report/shares

## TAKING STOCK

### DATA BANK

FTSE 100  
3,547.9 + 11.1FTSE 250  
3,905.3 + 8.0FTSE 350  
4,764.3 + 5.1SEAO VOLUME  
756.8m shares,  
28,781 bargainsSifts Index  
94.35 + 0.28

### SHARE SPOTLIGHT

Share price, price

## Rumour of large Vodafone cash call mobilises sellers

One of the messages carried on City mobiles yesterday was that Vodafone may accompany next week's interim results with a heavy cash call.

In busy trading the shares fell 6.5p to 251.5p; they have eased from 270p this month. Rumours suggested the cellular radio group, although heavily geared, had decided to call on shareholders to finance overseas acquisitions.

It has made no secret of its desire to take full control of its foreign associates when and if the opportunity occurs.

The story drew strength from an investment trip planned for later this month. The group intends to take a dozen analysts to study its operations in such countries as Fiji and South Africa.

The cash call rumour, however, was not the only call on Vodafone's shares. Stories that, despite the heavy turnover, a large line of stock still hovered

went the rounds; so did suggestions of a fourth operator being allowed into the German market where Vodafone is deeply involved.

The results are expected to show the group continues to make headway. Tressian McCarthy at Panmure Gordon is looking for £223.6m, a 23 per cent gain.

Cable and Wireless, reporting interim figures tomorrow, was little changed at 425p although stories of a possible break-up and a lack of unanimity in the boardroom continue to circulate. Profits are expected to emerge at around £61.2m against £56.7m.

The rest of the stock market remained firm, with New York shrugging aside the US budget stand-off and moving to a record, encouraged by the proposed 3M spin-off and a possible interest rate cut tomorrow. The FTSE 100 index rose 11.1 points to 3,547.9.



### MARKET REPORT

#### DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

Analyst recommendations had an impact. Lehman Brothers lifted Forte 5p to 253p after visiting the hotel group's US operations; an SBC Warburg downgrading lowered Sears, the retailer, 3p to 101p, and British Gas, third-quarter figures due today, was supported by Société Générale's Strauss Turnbull.

P&O, the building and shipping group, managed to throw off the burden of cross-Channel competition and gained 16p to 494p on the back of a NatWest Securities buy recommendation.

The securities house expects the group to lose £50m in revenues this year and next due to competition from Eurolines.

Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine group, was the top blue-chip performer, rising 11.5p to 172.5p on its £1.2bn Singapore Airlines deal. Another beneficiary, Smiths Industries, gained 12p to 594p. British Aerospace ignored any disappointment, firming to 730p.

Engineer Cobham up 31p to 172.5p, was supported by its £75m takeover of Westwind Air Bearings, which will be funded by a rights issue.

Oils remained firm on hopes the crude price will move ahead. British Petroleum rose 8.5p to 488.5p and Shell 6.5p to 745.5p.

SelectTV, the programme producer, held at 31.5p. Pearson, up 13p to 638p, has emerged as the favourite to bid.

The company said a month ago it had received approaches. There has, however, been some suggestion SelectTV could be split with its production side, which includes *Birds of a Feather*, going to Pearson and its 15 per cent interest in Meridian, the television contractor, to MAI, the media and money-brokering group.

London Clubs is attracting attention following the sale by the Barclay brothers of their 24 per cent interest. Some wonder whether it could attract a Far Eastern bid along the lines of the surprise strike for Asprey, the upmarket jeweller.

Heavy trading, with a series of delayed deals recorded, left the price down 6p to 425p. It was suggested the shares were depressed by one of the institutions, which had picked up some of the Barclay shares, taking its profits. After the fall the London Clubs is 14p below its peak.

Profit warnings knocked Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the paper group, 11.5p to 194.5p and Geest, the fresh food group, 32p to 107p.

Cortec International continued its heady run, up 39p to 160p following encouraging trading statements, and Aro-MacScan, a producer of an "electronic nose", jumped 14p to 160p on a £4.8m marketing deal with Danish group Foss Turmøller.

Telemetrix, the electronic group, rose 13p to 157p following Crédit Lyonnais' Laing support. The securities house drew attention to prospects at Telemetrix's US offshoot, GTI Corporation. Electrophoresis, the medical group, rose 10p to 140p on talk of a significant announcement soon.

### SHARE PRICE DATA

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (PE) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

Other details: ex rights x ex dividend = Easell = Unlisted Securities Market

s suspended pp partly paid pni paid shares

Source: Firstar

### THE INDEPENDENT INDEX

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seq. Simply dial 0891 123 336, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0891 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

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UK Company News 02 Wall St Report 20 Electricity Shares 40

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For assistance, call our helpline 071 573 4373 (9.30am - 5.30pm).

Calls cost 30p per minute (charge rates), and 50p at all other times. Call charges include VAT.

Market Leaders: TOP 20 VOLUMES

Stock	Volumes Stock	Volumes Stock	Stock	Volumes Stock	Volumes Stock
Ford Rover	36,000	Sears	17,000	Britten Airways	7,600
BT	20,000	BTR	9,400	Marine Bank	4,400
BT	13,000	British Gas	8,200	Aro Wiggins	7,200
Ladbrokes	12,600	LASMO	4,100	Merks & Spencer	6,700
ASDA Group	11,000	British Steel	8,100	BP	5,600
					Globe Telecom

### FTSE 100 INDEX HOUR BY HOUR

Open 3542.6	up 5.8	11.00	3544.8	up 7.8	15.00	3546.1	up 9.3	
09.00	3540.1	up 3.3	12.00	3543.5	up 6.7	16.00	3544.3	up 7.5
						17.00	3547.9	up 11.1

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### OIL EXPLORATION

### OIL, INTEGRATED

### OTHER FINANCIAL

### OTHER SERVICES

### RETAILERS, FOOD

### TEXTILES & APPAREL

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

### WATER

### TOBACCO

### TRANSPORT

### PHARMACEUTICALS

### PRINTING & PAPER

### PROPERTY

### SUPPORT SERVICES

### SPIRITS, WINES & CIDERS

### GAS DISTRIBUTION

### HEALTH CARE

### HOUSEHOLD GOODS

### INSURANCE

### INTERNATIONALS

### INDUSTRIALS

### ENGINEERING

### CHEMICALS

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### MEDIUMS

### LONGS

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# sport

## Illingworth faces difficult choice

### Cricket

MARTIN JOHNSON  
reports from Johannesburg

England's cricket selectors meet tonight to pick a side for their first Test match in this country in 30 years, and the only certainty is that Raymond Illingworth will not end up with the team he wants.

This, though, has nothing to do with the pass-the-smelling-salts inference that England's chairman will hand over team selection to Michael Atherton - rather that, as Illingworth explained in the softly spoken, diplomatic phrasology for which he has become famous: "Buggers can't be trusted."

"Buggers" in question, are England's specialist batsmen and what Illingworth meant was that they can't be trusted to score enough runs to adopt his own preference: for five batsmen, five bowlers, and the informer Jack Russell at No 6.

"Jack's batting better than the lot of them at the moment," Illingworth said yesterday as he watched with something less than undiluted pleasure at his six

specialist batsmen struggled against England's own bowlers in the nets at Centurion Park.

Illingworth does not go in for in-depth analysis when asked for his thoughts on ticklish issues, and when asked whether he could put his finger on what was wrong with England's batsmen he said: "Aye, they bloody well keep on getting out."

"I've certainly not seen anything to convince me that five of them will get enough runs, so we'll probably have to make do with four bowlers. The issue tonight, therefore, is which four?"

Ideally, England would plump for three seamers plus Richard Illingworth, but the idea of Devon Malcolm being backed up by only two other pace bowlers is enough to give the chairman an attack of the vapours. It may well be that England will consider their best option is no specialist spinner at all.

What it boils down to is that Malcolm and Illingworth will be named in a squad of 12, and that England will whichever option they take, end up with a final XI they are far from certain is the correct one. It is a scenario which is by no means unfamiliar.

■ Salim Malik is likely to be missing from Pakistan's middle order for this week's second Test against Australia in Hobart because he has a cut hand.

It would be by no means the first time that England selectors had got the wind up over the spin option on the eve of an overseas Test, and while this Centurion Park pitch is expected to assist the quicker bowlers to begin with

before taking turn in the latter stages, it has, as a virgin Test venue, never been played on for five consecutive days.

Given England's tour record, it is a bit optimistic to think that this one will last five days either, but it is a bat first surface, and if England will have to consider the consequences of leaving themselves without any ammunition to exploit a turning pitch on Sunday and Monday.

It is, however, not beyond them. Before the first Test of the 1992 series in India, they were "definitely" going to play three spinners. Then they decided to play four seamers instead, and got annihilated by a home team who ended up taking 17 wickets with spin.

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## Salisbury secures tourists' triumph

Pakistan Cricket Board XI 301 and 153  
England A 355 and 100-2  
England A win by 8 wickets

Ian Salisbury helped England A maintain their 100 per cent tour record in Pakistan and continued to mine the rich seam of form that brought him eight wickets in the opening first match in

Karachi with 3 for 31 in Lahore, (Pak) 8-149, 9-148, 10-148, 11-149, 12-149, 13-149, 14-149, 15-149, 16-149, 17-149, 18-149, 19-149, 20-149, 21-149, 22-149, 23-149, 24-149, 25-149, 26-149, 27-149, 28-149, 29-149, 30-149, 31-149, 32-149, 33-149, 34-149, 35-149, 36-149, 37-149, 38-149, 39-149, 40-149, 41-149, 42-149, 43-149, 44-149, 45-149, 46-149, 47-149, 48-149, 49-149, 50-149, 51-149, 52-149, 53-149, 54-149, 55-149, 56-149, 57-149, 58-149, 59-149, 60-149, 61-149, 62-149, 63-149, 64-149, 65-149, 66-149, 67-149, 68-149, 69-149, 70-149, 71-149, 72-149, 73-149, 74-149, 75-149, 76-149, 77-149, 78-149, 79-149, 80-149, 81-149, 82-149, 83-149, 84-149, 85-149, 86-149, 87-149, 88-149, 89-149, 90-149, 91-149, 92-149, 93-149, 94-149, 95-149, 96-149, 97-149, 98-149, 99-149, 100-149, 101-149, 102-149, 103-149, 104-149, 105-149, 106-149, 107-149, 108-149, 109-149, 110-149, 111-149, 112-149, 113-149, 114-149, 115-149, 116-149, 117-149, 118-149, 119-149, 120-149, 121-149, 122-149, 123-149, 124-149, 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# sport

## Small change for Springboks

### Rugby Union

STEVE BALE

England will face 10 of South Africa's World Cup-winning side when the completed Twickenham is unveiled on Saturday after yesterday's surprising decision by the Springbok management to drop the cult wing James Small.

The small change - Jacques Olivier wins promotion - is the only one from the team who beat Italy 40-21 in Rome last Sunday. "It was on form," Morne du Plessis, the manager, said. "Olivier had an outstanding end to the season." That was back home; in Italy he impressed after going on as a replacement for André Joubert.

Joubert has tender ribs, but is picked anyway. For Olivier, 27 the day before yesterday, it will be a 12th cap, his selection making him the only member of the 1992 Springbok side beat-

en 33-16 at Twickenham to last the three years since then.

Otherwise, the back line is unchanged from the World Cup final, but the pack has been rearranged due to the injuries which caused Os du Randt, Baille Swart and Hannes Strydom to stay at home and the return of James Dalton, who was suspended during the tournament.

"We have had an exceptionally long, intense season including the World Cup," Du Plessis said. "In one sense, this is a Test too far, but the redeeming feature is its special significance. Whatever the result, the squad will need and deserve a couple of months' total relaxation."

The hooker is joined in the front row by Tommie Laubscher, a tourist here last year, and the newcomer Toek van der Linde, who was still wearing the Springbok cap he won in Italy when the party arrived at their London hotel on Monday. François Pienaar has nowadays reverted to No 8, enabling Mark Andrews to return to the second row with the back row completed by Fritz van Heerden, who was dropped after England beat South Africa in Pretoria 18 months ago.

After winning all nine of their Tests so far in 1995, the



Helping hand: the South African pack are put through their paces at a training session in the City of London yesterday

Photograph: Peter Jay

## Why I'm moving to Newcastle

Ho'way the lads! As you approach the end of the tunnel at St James's Park the message stands out like a beacon against the stark white paint.

The wishes are heartfelt, just as everything tends to be in the North-east. From the taxi driver to the groundsman, the welcome is resounding. I am home. OK, so I'll be playing my rugby at Kingston Park, a suburb in the north of town for now, but maybe we can convince Sir John Hall to build a bigger stadium for the footballers.

The feeling of optimism, excitement and stimulation with which I am approaching this move is in stark contrast to the scepticism with which it is viewed in certain quarters.

As far as I can make out the only argument these sceptics have is what it will do to my chances of returning to representative rugby when my injury heals. Humbug. Of course it is a risk, but in all my studies as an economist, and broker there was always something called "return" with which to weigh this against.

Without wishing to in any way belittle the honour there is in representing your country, I do have other needs and desires to fulfil. They seem to have been overlooked by those who contest that this is a move based purely on financial motives.

For those who are not aware there are incredible forces set in motion by Sir John Hall to use the positive aspects of sport to involve the community both in support and in action. Sport has the ability to unite people while also educating them with various faculties such as commitment, discipline and fair play. By instilling these virtues into the young the aim is to produce not only talented sportsmen and women but also reputable adults who would be a credit to the Geordie nation.

The vehicle for this endeavour is a centre of sporting excellence made up of various academies that come under the umbrella of the Newcastle United Sporting Club, primarily football, rugby union and ice hockey. Children in the region will have access to training pitches (indoor and out), a sports injuries clinic and advice on all aspects of their chosen sport, including training, fitness and diet. To be able to take part, though, a child must abide by

Tony Underwood believes this is the time to take risks in the North-east

various codes of conduct such as no drugs or bad behaviour.

My involvement in this centre will be anything from assisting in managing the project, helping promote and market it and ultimately, when it is off the ground, to play a part in the running of the rugby academy.

Off the pitch, therefore, I hope my desire to go back up north and take part in such an endeavour is understandable.

On the pitch, Rob Andrew has assembled an extremely capable set of players to supplement the pool of talent already present. With such a collection of players we should be able to approach the 1996/97 season in the same way as Northampton have done this. I recently saw the Saints play London Scottish, and doubt that any one of the 7,000 spectators and 15 players did not thoroughly enjoy themselves.

However, it was with much regret that I had to leave Leicester after eight happy and rewarding years there. I owe them a great deal for the position they have helped to put me in. I have been nurtured by a great club with great individuals such as Tudor Thomas, Peter Wheeler, Ian Smith and Les Cusworth and have played alongside talented players in front of an adoring crowd on a fantastic ground.

Time moves on, though, and I recognise the potential Newcastle has to become a great club. The people and mechanics which have turned the football club around in four years are now in place at the rugby club. The understanding of running a professional sport and the financial backing behind it makes for exciting times ahead. I did not want to miss out.

### WEEKEND POOLS FORECAST

PA Carding: Premiership	
1. Aston Villa v Newcastle	2
2. Blackburn v Nottingham Forest	1
3. Bolton v West Ham	1
4. Leeds v Chelsea	1
5. Liverpool v Everton	1
6. Man Utd v Southampton	1
7. Shrewsbury v Man City	1
8. Tottenham v Arsenal	2
9. Wimbledon v Middlesbrough	2
Playing Sunday: QPR v Coventry, Playing Monday: Southampton v Aston Villa.	
Bell's Scottish League: Premier Division	
10. Falkirk v Partick	1
11. Kilmarnock v Motherwell	1
12. Raith Rovers v Aberdeen	2
13. St Mirren v Hibernian	2
14. Torquay v Lincoln	2
15. Dunfermline v Clydebank	2
16. Dundee Utd v Dundee	2
17. Greenock Morton v St Mirren	1
18. Hamilton v Ardoyne	2
19. St Johnstone v Dunfermline	2
First Division	
20. Dumbarton v Clydebank	2
21. Fife v Brechin	1
22. Greenock Morton v St Mirren	1
23. Hamilton v Ardoyne	2
24. Kilmarnock v Motherwell	1
25. Partick v Dundee	1
26. Queen's Park v Albion Rovers	1
27. St Mirren v Dundee	2
28. Wrexham v Rotherham	1
29. Wycombe v Bristol Rovers	1
Second Division	
30. Alloa v East Stirlingshire	1
31. Brechin v Dundee	1
32. Dundee v Queen of South	2
33. East Fife v Stenhousemuir	1
34. Montrose v Forfar	2
35. Stranraer v Ayr	1
Third Division	
36. Alloa v East Stirlingshire	1
37. Brechin v Dundee	1
38. Dundee v Queen of South	2
39. East Fife v Stenhousemuir	1
40. Montrose v Forfar	2
41. Stranraer v Ayr	1
Fourth Division	
42. Alloa v East Stirlingshire	1
43. Brechin v Dundee	1
44. Dundee Utd v Dundee	2
45. Greenock Morton v St Mirren	1
46. Hamilton v Ardoyne	2
47. Kilmarnock v Motherwell	1
48. St Johnstone v Dunfermline	2
Premiership	
49. Alloa v East Stirlingshire	1
50. Brechin v Dundee	1
51. Dundee Utd v Dundee	2
52. Greenock Morton v St Mirren	1
53. Hamilton v Ardoyne	2
54. Kilmarnock v Motherwell	1
55. St Johnstone v Dunfermline	2
Second Division	
56. Alloa v East Stirlingshire	1
57. Brechin v Dundee	1
58. Dundee Utd v Dundee	2
59. Greenock Morton v St Mirren	1
60. Hamilton v Ardoyne	2
61. Kilmarnock v Motherwell	1
62. St Johnstone v Dunfermline	2
First Division	
63. Alloa v East Stirlingshire	1
64. Brechin v Dundee	1
65. Dundee Utd v Dundee	2
66. Greenock Morton v St Mirren	1
67. Hamilton v Ardoyne	2
68. Kilmarnock v Motherwell	1
69. St Johnstone v Dunfermline	2
Second Division	
70. Alloa v East Stirlingshire	1
71. Brechin v Dundee	1
72. Dundee Utd v Dundee	2
73. Greenock Morton v St Mirren	1
74. Hamilton v Ardoyne	2
75. Kilmarnock v Motherwell	1
76. St Johnstone v Dunfermline	2
Third Division	
77. Alloa v East Stirlingshire	1
78. Brechin v Dundee	1
79. Dundee Utd v Dundee	2
80. Greenock Morton v St Mirren	1
81. Hamilton v Ardoyne	2
82. Kilmarnock v Motherwell	1
83. St Johnstone v Dunfermline	2
Fourth Division	
84. Alloa v East Stirlingshire	1
85. Brechin v Dundee	1
86. Dundee Utd v Dundee	2
87. Greenock Morton v St Mirren	1
88. Hamilton v Ardoyne	2
89. Kilmarnock v Motherwell	1
90. St Johnstone v Dunfermline	2

**IT'S ALIVE**  
REAL ALE. BREWING UNTIL IT LEAVES THE BOTTLE.

July 1995

**INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL:** As the quest to qualify for Euro '96 reaches a climax, some big names may be left out in the cold

# Lost in a maze of mathematics

**Glenn Moore** tries to make sense of Uefa's complex qualification system for the European Championship finals

It could be the calculator's best hour. All over Europe coaches, fans and pundits will be doing their sums tonight to try and make sense of Uefa's ridiculously complex qualification process for Euro '96.

Nowhere will the arithmetic be more feverishly studied than in Rotterdam, where the Netherlands and Norway are almost certainly contesting one place between them. The Dutch must win to finish above Norway but need a victory for them, or a draw for Norway, may not earn a place in next summer's tournament.

The formula is so complicated that Uefa only realised last week that Switzerland had qualified, three weeks after their final match. The Swiss thus became the fourth qualifiers after England (as hosts), Spain and Russia. Eleven other places will be decided tonight with the 16th place being finalised by a play-off at Anfield, next month. There is every chance that the

Netherlands will be in that match, but first they must beat Norway.

The Dutch are the great under-achievers of world football. Only in the 1988 Championship, when Rinus Michels managed to focus their attention on destroying the opposition rather than themselves, have they won the honours their ability warrants. The Norwegians, by contrast, have maximised their potential with a functional style which is ugly but effective.

The situation is complicated by the involvement of the Czech Republic, who meet Luxembourg in Prague tonight. If the Czechs win they are through. They could even qualify – probably via a play-off – if they lost to Luxembourg and Norway beat the Netherlands.

Norway are through if they

beat the Dutch, but would probably face a play-off if the match was drawn and the Czechs win.

The Netherlands can only qualify by winning (unless the Czechs lose, in which case a draw would probably put the Dutch in the play-off). Even a win might not be enough – if the Czechs also won the Dutch would probably have to play-off.

Confused? No wonder. Uefa has decided that the eight group winners qualify, and the six best second-placed teams. The other two second-placed teams will play-off. However, these teams' ranking is decided by results against the first, third and fourth-placed teams in their respective groups – because Group Three is smaller than the rest, and to prevent teams qualifying on the back of 10-0 wins against the likes of Azerbaijan.

A good performance in the six relevant matches is 11 points – which Scotland have. Eight or nine, as the second-placed team in the Dutch group is likely to have, will probably mean a play-off. The runners-up in the Republic of Ireland's group are likely to be the other play-off contenders, but the Romanians also have reason to worry. They are guaranteed to finish in the top two, but if they lose to Slovakia, will come second. Should Romania win, France would be second. The worst-case scenario for France is wins for Romania, Israel and Poland – which would leave them second with a trip to Liverpool guaranteed.

Group Four, Croatia and Italy are sure to finish in the top two but the Italians could be heading for the play-off if Slovakia beat Croatia and they lose to Lithuania. In Group Two, Turkey are set to qualify for their first major tournament since 1954, even if they beat for the first time in 15 matches in Sweden, Scotland, Denmark, Germany and Bulgaria – who meet in Berlin – are similarly well-placed.

Group Five

Group Six

Group Seven

Group Eight

Group Nine

Group Ten

Group Eleven

Group Twelve

Group Thirteen

Group Fourteen

Group Fifteen

Group Sixteen

Group Seventeen

Group Eighteen

Group Nineteen

Group Twenty

Group Twenty-one

Group Twenty-two

Group Twenty-three

Group Twenty-four

Group Twenty-five

Group Twenty-six

Group Twenty-seven

Group Twenty-eight

Group Twenty-nine

Group Thirty

Group Thirty-one

Group Thirty-two

Group Thirty-three

Group Thirty-four

Group Thirty-five

Group Thirty-six

Group Thirty-seven

Group Thirty-eight

Group Thirty-nine

Group Forty

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Group Sixty-four

Group Sixty-five

Group Sixty-six

Group Sixty-seven

Group Sixty-eight

Group Sixty-nine

Group Sixty-ten

Group Sixty-one

Group Sixty-two

Group Sixty-three

# SPORT

COMPLETE CRICKET FIXTURES  
FOR THE 1996 SEASON

28

INDEPENDENT - WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 1995

## TONY UNDERWOOD

Why I'm joining Newcastle

30

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL: England welcome back Gascoigne but injury likely to rule Townsend out of Irish decider in Lisbon

## Venables puts his faith in Sheringham

GLENN MOORE

Football Correspondent

It was hard to tell who was more delighted at Teddy Sheringham's selection for England yesterday: the player himself or Wembley's over-burdened switchboard operators.

It was impossible to ask either party. Sheringham was refusing to talk and you can never get through to Wembley.

One thing was sure: his inclusion in the team to face Switzerland tonight was unlikely to clog even further Wembley's telephone lines with late requests for tickets. Sheringham's fan club may be based much closer to Wembley than Les Ferdinand's, but it is considerably smaller.

The inclusion of Sheringham underlines that, when it comes to team selection, public and media opinion mean little to Venables. Which is how it should be: if Venables gets it wrong he is heavily criticised, so he may as well take risks on his own judgement.

There is a case for playing Sheringham. He and Alan Shearer – who is retained – have started together twice for England: against the United States in September last year Shearer scored twice in a 2-0 win (his last goals for England); against Swe-

den in June Sheringham scored in a 3-3 draw (his only England goal). In both games they linked as well as any pair have under Venables.

Sheringham's partnerships with Jürgen Klinsmann and, increasingly in recent weeks, with Chris Armstrong show that he works well with centre-forwards. He tends to play further forward than Nick

Lee's inclusion (David Platt was not regarded as match-fit) may remedy that problem, but it is still a retrograde approach.

The other doubt surrounding Sheringham is his pace: he is simply not quick enough for international football. What the player himself thinks can only be guessed at as he was not talking to the press.

Gascoigne also returns, his knee injury having eased, and will renew his promising partnership with Jamie Redknapp. "He said he could have played with me all night," Redknapp said yesterday, referring to Gascoigne's reaction after the Colombia game.

On the other hand, Beardsey has looked as sharp as anyone in training and has much greater cunning when it comes to breaking down defences on the ground. And while Sheringham may be better in the air,

Barbry or Peter Beardsley and is thus more able to support Shearer. His aerial ability also gives England a greater choice of targets. And he is in form with 12 goals this season.

More disappointing than the absence of either Beardsey or Ferdinand is the omission of their Newcastle team-mate, Steve Howey. Venables explained that Gary Pallister did well against Norway but, given that he was mainly bombarded with the sort of high balls he faces in the Premiership, that was no surprise. One of Venables' themes is the need to give his young players experience and this was an ideal chance to increase Howey's.

With Graeme Le Saux also regarded as a sort of match fitness England will field their most experienced defence under Venables. But conceding goals is not the problem: scoring is. The well-organised Swiss are unlikely to offer England many chances to improve in that department.

Although the onus is on England to go forward, and the crowd – which is not expected to be large – is likely to be impatient, they will have to be cautious. "We have to play more with our heads than our hearts," Tony Adams said.

No one needs to get the balance right more than Gascoigne, yet neither his fitness nor his temperament inspire confidence. If England do concede it could be a difficult night. It will be interesting to see who the substitutes are: they may be needed. A draw would be a reasonable result, as long as it is not 0-0 again.

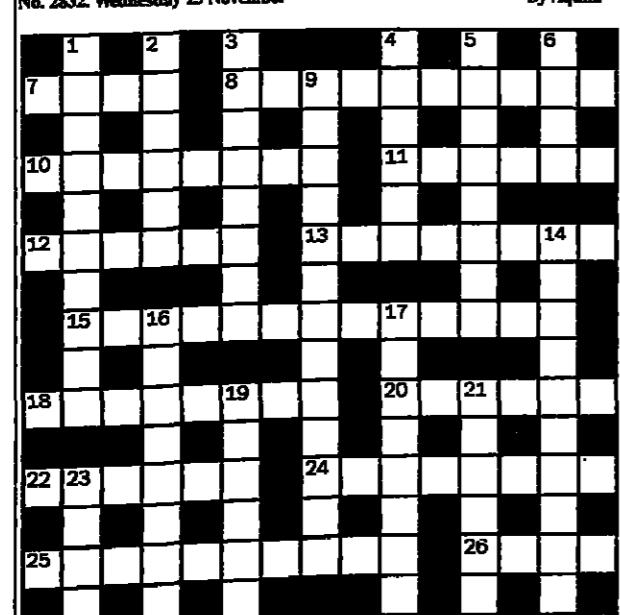
Happy Hodgson, page 31

### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution

No. 2832. Wednesday 15 November



**ACROSS**

- Type of magpie (4)
- Rolling tongue, not turned over on the outside (10)
- Note universal restorative of the Germans! (8)
- Cartographer's medium paper-shredder (6)
- Were his charges conditioned with rich dessert, endlessly? (6)
- Pop out more, in other words, trouble-free (8)
- Delay for spectator ... rain breaking out? (13)
- Herb Paris used for sweetheart (8)
- United in classes in places of open discussion (6)
- American ballyhoo is fair game (6)

**DOWN**

- One who cuts in on people talking (10)
- Long in support of fake gems of delicate shade (6)
- Pastry-case business? (8)
- Old boys rough in maul (6)
- South African bloomers of 2, perhaps taking first-class return (8)
- Unrepeatable opening of fairy-story? (4)

PHIL SHAW  
reports from Glasgow

If there is an anticlimactic atmosphere surrounding Scotland's last Group Eight fixture, at home to San Marino tonight, it is not simply because the nation has become distracted by the ifs and buts of Paul Gascoigne's latest brush with authority.

It is also because Scotland, eschewing their historical roles of brinkmanship and gallant failure, have made such an efficient fist of qualifying for the European Championship finals that even an embarrassment worse than those inflicted by Costa Rica or Iran would make no difference.

Under the system used by Uefa to decide which runners-up go through automatically, only results against the other leading countries count. Craig Brown's side, having prised 11 points from Russia, Greece and Finland, already boast a better record than anyone who can finish second in the Republic of

Ireland's section. They now need just one of six other results to go their way, regardless of what happens at Hampden Park.

So confident is he of qualification that Brown, a normally cautious manager, yesterday avoided the customary clichés about counting chickens and fat ladies singing. While not exactly embracing bravado either, he expressed his desire to convince Scottish supporters that their team would not be crossing the border next summer to make up the numbers.

"The Republic could only draw in Liechtenstein, yet if they get through I'm sure everyone will assume that they'll do well. So there's no reason for us to feel daunted," Brown said. "I feel we're capable of doing something in England, and the preparation for that starts now."

Brown will not decide on his line-up until later today, but confirmed that Nottingham Forest's Scott Gemmill will replace the injured Stuart McCall in midfield for his fourth cap and first appearance in the ar-

ene where his father, Archie, established such a tenacious presence. Aberdeen's Eoin Jess and Scott Booth will play up front, perhaps with a third striker, while Jim Leighton receives the opportunity to complete six games in the group (plus one as substitute) without conceding a goal.

The crowd will expect Scotland to do the scoring against arguably the worst side in Europe. However, San Marino's tactic of pulling nine men behind the ball has tested their patience before. The heaviest away defeat suffered by Italy's answer to Edinburgh Castle has been 4-0 in Russia, the same score by which Scotland beat them to clinch a place in the 1992 finals.

Brown would settle for a repeat, but one of his coaching staff will not be there to see how they fare. Frank Coulston, the former Partick Thistle player, has been deputed to assess Austria's performance in Belfast... just in case a freakish combination of results pits the Scots against them in next month's play-off at Liverpool.

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## Clough hungers for Wolves job

GUY HODGSON

Wolverhampton Wanderers' search for a new manager in the aftermath of Graham Taylor's resignation took a turn they would not have dreamed of yesterday when Brian Clough announced he was interested in the vacancy.

The self-styled Old Big 'Ed made this surprise attempt to return to football via a telephone

call to a Nottingham news agency. "They [the FA] would not give me the chance of preceding or following Graham Taylor as manager of England," he said, "but I would not mind succeeding him at Wolves."

Clough, 60, the only man other than Kenny Dalglish and Herbert Chapman to win the English championship with different clubs, resigned from Nottingham Forest two and a half years ago and has since had

little or no involvement in the game. He wrote a column for a Sunday newspaper but is believed to have attended only one live game since leaving the City Ground, a reserve match between Forest and Derby.

Wolves, who were making no comment on Clough's announcement last night, can cross two candidates off their list: Ron Atkinson and Gordon Strachan insist they are staying with Coventry.

## TONY UNDERWOOD

Why I'm joining Newcastle

30

## Republic's £5m price of failure

The Republic of Ireland's players will lose around £50,000 per man in bonus payments and the country's Football Association can wave goodbye to an estimated £5m if they do not reach the European Championship finals.

And the Irish will almost certainly lose the services of their manager, Jack Charlton, if Portugal put them out of the finals in tonight's decisive Group Six qualifying match in Lisbon. Charlton will probably resign if the Republic fail to qualify, even though he now insists he will not immediately walk away if the result goes against him in Benfica's famous Stadium of Light.

If so, it would bring to an end a glorious era in Irish football and present the incoming manager with an enormous rebuilding task. Charlton has shown considerable loyalty to an ageing squad, but if the Irish fail to qualify it would almost certainly be time for a clear-out.

The Football Association of Ireland's commercial manager, Donie Butler, said: "There is certainly a hell of a lot riding on tomorrow night's events. I estimate Uefa will hand out £1.5m to each of the 16 nations who make the finals and, of course, there will be huge new openings for sponsorship, advertising and television fees even though we already have very valuable agreements in place taking us through to the year 2002."

"Reaching the World Cup finals in 1994 was probably the height of financial growth from our marketing sources, but it is an on-going story as this will, hopefully, be the fourth major final we have reached in eight years." The 22 Republic players who went to the World Cup shared a £1.4m qualifying bonus, boosted by reaching the last 16. And this time, although the payment is not expected to be quite so much, the squad limit for the European finals is 20.

Andy Townsend, the Republic's inspirational captain, appears to be losing his battle to be fit for tonight's game. He is desperate to make the team, but Charlton appears close to ruling him out because of the foot injury which forced him off after just 30 minutes of Aston Villa's 1-0 win. PORTUGAL (probable): Belo, Secretario (both FC Porto), Castro (Porto), Heider (Benfica), Simeao (FC Porto), Soares (Aveiro), Gomes (Oporto), Costa (Porto), Pinto (Porto), Jose Vaz (Porto), Oliveira (Porto), Domingos (FC Porto).

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (probable): A Kelly (Udinese), O'Leary (Lazio), Keane (Aston Villa), Madine (Aston Villa), Riordan (Dundalk), Keane (Blackburn), Sweeney (Aston Villa), Quinn (Man City), Aldridge (Tottenham).

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## Good-bye battery



Seiko Kinetic. The first and only watch that generates its own energy from your every movement. The perpetual accuracy of quartz – naturally. Without a battery, it's my powerhouse converts even your slightest movement into electrical impulses. Ecologically sound and ultimately reliable. Seiko Kinetic is so efficient that you only need to wear it for one day to ensure enough energy reserves to last at least a week. Wear it continually and it will never let you down. It's built to last. Something all watches will be made this way.

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